THE SECRET LETTERS AND NEGOTIATIONS OF THE MARESCHAL D'ESTRADES, MONSIEUR COLBERT, AND THE COUNT D'AVAUX;

The *French* King's Plenipotentiary-Ambaſſadors in the Treaty of

NIMEGUEN.

Together with His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's and Monſieur *de Pomponne*'s Anſwers and Inſtructions.

VOL. III.

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M. DCC. X.

1568/1571

LETTERS

AND

NEGOTIATIONS

OF THE MARESCHAL

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75 MAY

The SECRET LETTERS AND NEGOTIATIONS Of the MARESCHAL *D'ESTRADES*, &c.

VOL. III.

LETTER *From the Ambaſſadors to the King.* Dated *March* 9. 1677.

SIRE,

We have receiv'd the Diſpatch which your Majeſty did us the Honour to ſend us, of the 27th *ult.* We hear from ſeveral Places, that *Valenciennes* and *St. Omer* are beſieged. Theſe are Enterprizes ſo great and ſo extremely ſurprizing

to your Majesty's Enemies, that to complete their Ruin, we need only put up Prayers for your Prosperity, and the good Success of your Arms, and supplicate God for the Preservation of your Person.

We have had a long Conference with the Ambassadors of *Sweden*; and after we had debated about the ridiculous Proposals of the *Spaniards*, and they had communicated to us, those of the King of *Denmark*, which are of the same Force as the others, and concerning which, there is nothing to be treated of with them; we began to discourse with them, pursuant to the Orders we receiv'd from your Majesty, and told them, that you have thought fit to put us into a Capacity of answering the Proposals which the Ambassadors of the *States* might make to us; and that since the Exchange of some one of the Places your Majesty is possessed of, and the Barrier they would set up against *France*, are the two Articles which the *Hollanders* are most desirous to have establish'd; your Majesty is very willing to admit of Expedients as to both, it being always supposed, that *Spain* should hearken to a general Agreement: But in case that Crown should be averse thereto, and *Holland* should incline to a separate Accommodation; then your Majesty would, by a Suspension of Arms in *Flanders*, take away from the *Hollanders* the Uneasiness they may be under, about the entire Loss of the *Low-Countries*.

That in both these Proposals, his Majesty takes a particular Care of the Interests of *Sweden*, since he will not make a general Agreement with the House of *Austria*, without giving an entire Satisfaction to that Crown: And in case *Holland* were disposed to treat separately, your Majesty would be in a Condition to act with such Forces in *Germany*, as that you would soon re-establish there the

Interests

Intereſts of *Sweden* and your own; and that it was upon that very Account, that in your Propoſals, your Majeſty makes no Mention of the Empire, nor even of *Philipsburg*; becauſe your Intention is, to apply yourſelf wholly to the relieving of *Sweden* in *Germany*, when you ſhall be diſengag'd from the War with *Holland*. That at the ſame time that your Majeſty order'd us to diſcover your Sentiments to them, you likewiſe enjoin'd Monſieur *de Courtin*, to explain himſelf after the ſame manner, touching this Affair, as Occaſion may ſerve, to the King of *England*. And afterwards, we deſir'd them to keep it very ſecret; as having communicated a Buſineſs to them, which we ought not to declare, till we come to anſwer the Propoſals of the *States*. The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* receiv'd this Mark of Confidence with a great deal of Joy, and declar'd to us, that nothing could be added to the Conditions your Majeſty was willing to grant for the Peace, whether it were general, or ſeparate.

Afterwards, we turn'd our Diſcourſe to the ill Poſture of the Affairs of *Pomerania*; which they themſelves look'd upon as ruin'd, by the powerful Army of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, which is ſaid to amount to 24000 Men; and we told them, that if ſome Princes of *Germany* could be drawn off from his Side, and if their Forces were render'd uſeleſs by a Neutrality, it would be a great piece of Service to the Common Cauſe: That the Duke of *Zell* uſually furniſhes 14000 Men every Campagne: That the King of *Denmark* offer'd him *Wiſmark*, if he would lend him 4000 Men: That if the King of *Sweden* would give him Hopes of agreeing with him, by Exchange, or for Money, for one of the Places, which he had ſubdued near his Dominions, he might, perhaps, be brought to a Neutrality; and that it would

be no ſmall Advantage, to draw off the ſaid Prince from that Side, who would very much weaken the Enemies of *Sweden*, not only by the 14000 Men, whom he ſends every Campagne to the Allies, but likewiſe by the Troops, which muſt of neceſſity be oppoſed to him, in caſe he ſhould abandon the Party.

We ſpoke, in like manner, of the Biſhop of *Munſter*, who having always ſufficiently ſhew'd Inconſtancy in his Conduct, might alſo be brought over by Offers. What we ſaid, was by way of Converſation, in order to diſcover their Sentiments. Count *Oxenſtiern* made us Anſwer, That the Biſhop of *Munſter* was a fickle Man, and that there was ſo little Safety in treating with him, that the King his Maſter would hardly be induced to engage therein: That as for the Duke of *Zell*, there was nothing to be done: That the Marquis *de Feuquieres* had propoſed ſome time ago, to the King of *Sweden*, a Neutrality for him; and that he ſhould deliver up to him, certain Places he had conquer'd, (which ſeems to be the ſame Propoſal ſince made to me, the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*) but that the King of *Sweden* rejected it, and would not any longer hear any Talk about it. We judged by this Anſwer, that there was no Hopes of an Accommodation with the King of *Sweden*, I mean, a Conſent for the delivering up of any Place: So that the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* made Anſwer to the Ducheſs of *Zell*, That as to the Neutrality your Majeſty grants, as alſo the Subſidies which are to be agreed upon, and as to what relates to the delivering up of the two Places by *Sweden*, when the Peace is concluded; our Majeſty cannot enter upon an Affair, wherein his Engagements are ſo contrary, unleſs *Sweden* does conſent thereto.

It

It remains for us to give an Account to Your Majeſty, of what the Mediators lately told us, That the Allies having obſerv'd, that there was nothing in our Propoſals, touching *Lorrain*, they had referr'd 'em all to them; affirming, That we could not diſpenſe with explaining ourſelves, what we deſign'd to do in that Affair; the rather, becauſe three of the ſaid Allies were authoriz'd by the Duke of *Lorrain*, to act in his favour. The Mediators read the Letter to us, which that Prince wrote to them, wherein he declares to them, That not being able hitherto to obtain for the Miniſter, whom he is to ſend to that Aſſembly, the Title of Ambaſſador, and not being willing to do any thing, which might prejudice the Right which his Predeceſſors always enjoy'd; he had intreated his Allies to produce his Claims here.

We interrupted them in the Reading, and told them that it did not concern us to know, what Prince *Charles* had wrote to them; and that we ſhould ſee what Anſwer we ſhould make to the Demands which he deſigns to inſiſt upon, when that Prince has any Perſon on his part, with a Full-Power to act here; but that till then, we could not receive any Propoſal on his ſide, and much leſs make any on our part, as to what might affect him, ſince we had nothing hitherto to demand of him.

My Lord *Berkley* explain'd himſelf to me *d'Avaux*, that having been charg'd by his Collegues, to carry our Propoſals to the Allies; the latter extremely preſs'd him, to anſwer them, even with Incivility and Menaces; but he excus'd himſelf by telling them, That his Collegues had appointed him only to put them into their Hands, and not to make a Report of them; That not being able to get any thing from him, they went to the Houſe of Sir *William Temple*, where was alſo Sir *Lionel*

nel Jenkins, to whom they complain'd very much of the Procedure of my Lord *Berkley*; and that to appeaſe them, Sir *Lionel Jenkins* being more compliable, receiv'd them at their Hands, with the Conſent of Sir *William Temple*: We do not doubt, but Your Majeſty thinks the Condeſcenſion of thoſe two Mediators to ſo unjuſt a Demand, very contrary to their Duty; and that it even requires, that ſome Complaints thereof ſhould be made to the King of *Great-Britain*.

However, foraſmuch as all this was done in the Abſence of Monſieur *Beverning*, who went to meet the Prince of *Orange*, from whom he return'd ſince Yeſterday; we believe he has oblig'd the Allies to receive our Propoſals this Day. The Prince of *Orange* has entruſted Monſieur *Beverning* with a ſecret Negotiation, in caſe it be renew'd.

He has ſent the Sieur *Peſters* to me the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*, to tell me, That he wiſh'd nothing ſo much, as that Your Majeſty would propoſe ſome Expedient, to draw him off with Honour from the Engagement he is under with the Allies, that he might be at liberty to acquaint you with the Zeal he has for your Service: That he had not ſpoke to any one, concerning all the Propoſals, which have been made, but to the Sieur *Peſters*, and at preſent to Monſieur *Beverning*, with Orders not to communicate them to any of the *States* whomſoever.

The Elector of *Brandenburg* is ſtill at *Ham*, indiſpos'd of the Gout; 'tis uncertain, whether the Prince of *Orange* will return into thoſe Parts, to viſit the Elector of *Brandenburg*: He has had enough to do with the Province of *Holland*, which is now aſſembled, in order to furniſh the five Millions which he requires for the Campagne.

Monſieur

Monſieur *Straatman*, the Emperor's Ambaſſador, ſignify'd his Arrival to us three Days ago, about nine a Clock in the Morning, and at the ſame time, we ſent a Gentleman to compliment him; and in demanding of him the Hour of Audience, we intreated him to grant it us in the Morning: He excus'd himſelf, by ſaying that he had ſome Affairs to regulate on the part of the Emperor, after Dinner, with the Envoy of the Elector of *Cologn*; and that he could not grant it before ſix a Clock in the Evening: Accordingly, we made him a Viſit at that Hour, and we have been told, that he had already given an Audience to the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* at two a Clock, and at four to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*: So that we only wait till he comes to return us his Viſit, to affront him with a Refuſal, by telling him, the Reaſon is becauſe he has not render'd Your Majeſty the due Honour. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 9. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd your Diſpatch of the 25th *ult.* you may ſee by this, that we have given ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, about the Poſture in which all things ſtand. We ſhall exactly follow the Orders His Majeſty has given us, as to the Viſit of Monſieur *Straatman*, whoſe Procedure was extraordinary, in receiving

those of the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark* and *Sweden*, before ours, tho' we had deſir'd an Audience in the Morning.

Sir, we don't write our Sentiments as to the Propoſals of our Enemies; we doubt not but they appear to you as unreaſonable, as to us: That of the Prince of *Orange*, as to the Re-eſtabliſhment of his Principality, with all the Privileges and Augmentations which he claims therein, gives us occaſion (according to our general Opinion) to bring upon the Stage the juſt Demand of the Count *d' Auvergne*, for the Reſtitution of the Country of *Bergenoptzoom*; and we believe, Sir, it will be proper to extend it, inſomuch that it may be a great deal more conſiderable than the Claim of the ſaid Prince of *Orange*. If this be your Judgment in the Caſe, and the King's Intention, be pleas'd to make it known to the Count *d' Auvergne*, to the end that he may draw up a very fair Memorial of every thing he has a Right to demand, and that you may be pleas'd to ſend it to us to add it to our Propoſals, and by that means counter-balance thoſe of the ſaid Prince of *Orange*. We are, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 13. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to write to you this Poſt, all things being in the ſame Poſture, as we inform'd you by our laſt. The Cavalry, which

which paſs'd near *Nimeguen*, will ſtay till freſh Orders, in the Country of *Cuick* and *Raveſtein*; the ſame is in a very bad Condition. If the Army of *Holland* does not make more haſte than it has hitherto done, it will not arrive time enough, to ſuccour *Valenciennes*. We are very glad to ſee, that ſuch fine Weather favours the great Enterprizes of the King: We pray to the Almighty, every Day, for His Majeſty's Preſervation. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.
Dated *March* 16. 1677.

SIRE,

MOnſieur *Beverning* came Yeſterday to viſit us *Colbert* and *d'Avaux*; and foraſmuch as he told both of us within a ſmall matter, the ſame things, tho' he gave us ſeparate Viſits; we ſhall in general give an Account to Your Majeſty, of the Converſation we had with him. We did not find in him all the Freedom of Mind as we could have wiſh'd; and he quickly gave us to underſtand the Reaſon of it, by telling us, that he only delay'd his Viſit, becauſe he expected a Full-Power to diſcourſe with us at large: But that the Penſionary *Fagel* told him, that he was ſo full of Buſineſs, that he had not time to ſend him ſome Papers, which were neceſſary for him, and that he ſhould have them by the firſt Poſt: He declar'd to us at the ſame time, That the *States-General* were very well ſatisfy'd, with the Propoſals we had made both to them and to the Allies; but that they were very much diſcontented with thoſe, that ſome others had made, and which were ridi-

culous; being willing to ſpecify thoſe of *Spain* and *Denmark*: He told us, they had a Neceſſity to enter into certain Alliances, from which it was their Intereſt to diſengage themſelves by little and little: That they plainly ſaw, that moſt of their Allies were averſe to a Peace: That thoſe who had loſt any thing in this War, ſtill hop'd, that ſome Chance-Blow might re-eſtabliſh them; but that no Account might be made of this Matter; and that thoſe who had gain'd by it, thought of nothing but maintaining themſelves in their Conqueſts; and that if they could get an Advantage thereby, they would, perhaps, leave them and *Spain* in a War, out of which they ſhould have a hard matter to diſengage themſelves.

Sire, we do not relate what we told Monſieur *Beverning*, of your Majeſty's good Intentions for the *States-General*, and of the particular Eſteem you have for his Perſon. We ſhall only have the Honour to tell you, that Monſieur *Beverning*, having declared to both ſides, that he could not enter into any Buſineſs with us; that he had no Power, and that he was not very deſirous to diſcourſe about an Affair, which he could not enlarge upon altogether; We thought, that ſince 'tis your Majeſty's Intereſt, to notify to the *States-General* your favourable Diſpoſitions to procure for them ſo conſiderable Advantages in a Peace; it would be equally dangerous to expreſs your good Diſpoſitions out of ſeaſon, and without making any Advantage thereby. Therefore, we did not enter upon an Enumeration of the Particulars, which your Majeſty permitted us to ſay, when Occaſion ſerves.

We hope to do it ſpeedily to better Purpoſe, when Monſieur *Beverning* will be in a Condition to propoſe ſomething to us, and to give us a Hearing.

ing. What we can only infer from the Satisfaction the *States* had in our firſt Propoſals, is, that they will have a great deal more, when they ſhall be fully inform'd of your Majeſty's Intentions as to what concerns them; and that, far from expecting every Advantage which your Majeſty is willing to obtain for them hereafter, they did not think that our firſt Steps would have diſcover'd ſo great Inclinations for Peace.

For this Reaſon, Sire, we believ'd it would be very advantageous for your Majeſty's Service, to ſhew Monſieur *Beverning*, every thing that is contain'd in our Inſtructions; ſince conſidering how earneſtly he deſires to make Peace, he will, without doubt, inform his Maſters of them, to very good Purpoſe; and the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange* will not, perhaps, be great enough, to carry it againſt the People, who beſides the Neceſſity, and the great Deſire they have to put an end to the War, will find Advantages, which they do not expect, and which were never made known to them.

Sire, we ought to tell your Majeſty, that Monſieur *Beverning* appears altogether as ſenſible as we are, that conſidering the Impoſſibility there is of adjuſting, at the ſame time, ſo many different Intereſts, there was no other Means to obtain a general Peace, than by making theirs ſeparately: For, when we told him, that your Allies were perſuaded, that *Holland* would, upon no Account, quit *Flanders*, and that they doubted not but the Threats they make to do it, are only to intimidate them; that thus they always continue obſtinate in the Deſign of continuing the War, and leave to the *States* the Care and Charge of Succouring the *Catholick* Countries; he told us, there were no other Means to get clear of this Perplexity, than to begin to make their Peace,

and

and to manage the Intereſt of their Allies one after the other. This, Sire, is very near all that Monſieur *Beverning* told us; and tho' they are not very eſſential Matters, yet we thought ourſelves obliged to give an Account of 'em to your Majeſty, and to ſhew you, by that Means, (as you have already perceiv'd, by every thing which you have heard, as from Monſieur *Beverning*) that he is well diſpos'd for a Peace; and that we hope, by his Means, to be in a Capacity of concluding it. Monſieur *Straatman* has not yet made his Viſits, no not even to the Mediators. We believe him embaraſs'd about the Engagement which he was under, of aſſigning Audiences to other Ambaſſadors before us. We wait to ſee what he will do, when the Viſits are to be return'd, in which we ſhall exactly obſerve your Majeſty's Orders.

We ſhall here add, moreover, that Monſieur *Beverning* appear'd to us very indifferent as to the Matter, and extremely diſſatified with Monſieur *Kinsky*; at leaſt, he declar'd himſelf ſo to us; and told us alſo, he believ'd Monſieur *Kinsky* was very much diſpleas'd with him, but that he car'd very little for it. We are, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 16. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to the Diſpatch, which we give ourſelves the Honour to ſend to the King, but what the Mediators came to tell us on the part of the Allies. They declar'd

clar'd to us, that the Allies complain'd to them of the Manner after which the People of *Deux-Ponts*, and the Neighbouring Country, were treated; and that they had proteſted to them, that in caſe, in the Courſe of the War, we ſhould deal with them after the ſame manner, it would be only according to the Example of what had been but lately practis'd. The Mediators added thereto, that the Allies had deſir'd their Proteſtations might be deliver'd to the King of *England*. We ſhall not tell you, Sir, after what manner the Mediators aggravated what the Neceſſity of War had caus'd to be done: But we can aſſure you, Sir, that they did not ſpare us any Term of thoſe which the Allies made uſe of in their Complaint; and we are perſuaded, that they will report them to the King of *England*, with the ſame Exactneſs, to omit nothing of all that they think may turn to our Diſadvantage. We anſwer'd them, that we were greatly ſurpriz'd, that inſtead of employing their Mediations, to forward the Work of Peace, with which all our Care and Application ought to be bounded; the Allies ſhould give them the Trouble of coming to preſcribe to us, after what manner they are willing we ſhould make War with them: That, indeed, we were in the wrong, not to leave them their Cellars and Granaries well fill'd, in order to facilitate their Deſign: That, nevertheleſs, if they were to examine after what manner their Troops dealt, it would be found, that the Countries thro' which they paſs'd, have much juſter Grounds of Complaint: But that for us, we could only hearken to the Propoſals of Peace, without entring into the Particulars of what had paſs'd in the Wars. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LET-

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *March* 17. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I anſwer your Letters of the 2d, 5th, and 7th inſtant, at the ſame time; but I begin with the latter, becauſe it was accompany'd with the Copy of the Propoſals, which were put into the Hands of the Mediators, by all the Parties. I have already ſeen and approved of thoſe, which you were to give in my Name; ſo that I ſhall only let you know my Opinion as to the others.

The Propoſals of *Sweden*, as well with regard to the Emperor, *Spain*, and *Denmark*, as to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, ſeem to me very conformable to Reaſon; becauſe they tend only to the re-eſtabliſhing of Things, according to the Treaties of *Weſtphalia* and *Copenhagen*; and to re-inſtate them in the ſame Condition, as they were before this War. But as to what is inſerted concerning an Equivalent, I look upon it as one of thoſe Articles, which are always demanded, without thinking they ſhall ever be obtain'd.

As to all the Propoſals which have been given by the Enemy; foraſmuch as thoſe of the Emperor and the Elector of *Brandenburg* principally concern the Empire, the only Anſwer which ought to be return'd to them, is, to demand, (even as you have done it in my Name, and as the King of *Sweden* has explain'd himſelf thereupon) that Things may be reduced to the ſame Terms of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, as the moſt certain

certain and natural Method to reſtore Peace to *Germany*. The ſame thing may be ſaid, with reſpect to thoſe of *Denmark*, ſince the Treaties of *Copenhagen* and *Weſtphalia* may ſtill terminate the Differences with *Sweden*: So that as to every thing which concerns thoſe Princes, you muſt continue firm in the Demand you made, That Matters ſhould be re-eſtabliſhed upon the Foot of thoſe Treaties, and reſtored to the ſame State they were in before the War.

The Demands of *Spain*, and thoſe of the *States-General*, in Favour of the Prince of *Orange*, are only ſo unreaſonable, that ſcarce any Method can be found to anſwer them; neither is it my Intention, that you ſhould haſten to do it. 'Tis the Buſineſs of the Mediators, to interpoſe, in order to bring the Parties nearer, according to thoſe firſt Propoſals, whom they ſhall judge, perhaps, on either ſide, to have gone fartheſt from them. Alſo, my Reſolution is only to inform you of my Sentiments, touching the manner after which you ought to explain yourſelves to them, when they would have you explain yourſelves about the Demands of my Enemies.

I have already obſerved to you, that the Treaties of *Copenhagen* and *Weſtphalia* ought to be your Rule, as to what the Emperor demands: But as to the Propoſals of *Spain*, which do not only overthrow a ſolemn Treaty of Peace, but would alſo deprive me of all the Benefit of a War, which *Spain* has declared againſt me; you will have no Difficulty to repreſent to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, that no Anſwer is to be made to ſuch Demands; ſo that you will always ſtand to the Offer you have made, and which appears the moſt natural, to leave Things in the ſame State, as the Fortune of War has put them.

But

But becauſe the Propoſals of the Ambaſſadors contain two Articles, *viz.* one relating to the *States-General*, and the other to the Prince of *Orange*; I will inform you of my Sentiments as to both. The Memorial ſo ample which was preſented to you, as to the latter, is in all Reſpects ſo unreaſonable, that it ſcarce deſerves an Anſwer: It deviates from the moſt common Rule of all Treaties, the only Cuſtom whereof is, to ſettle things in the ſame Poſture as they are found, and to reſtore them to the State they were in before the War. Here things which happen'd long before are recall'd, and a Re-eſtabliſhment of them is not only pretended, but an Augmentation of new Rights, which never had a Being, or which have been ſuppreſs'd a long time ago: So that when, by the Interpoſition of the Mediators, you will be oblig'd to anſwer upon that Article, you may only declare, That I am very willing to ſettle in a Treaty of Peace, the City and Principality of *Orange*, in every Eſtabliſhment wherein they now are, and in all the Rights and Privileges, which they enjoy'd before the War.

As to the Intereſts of the *States-General*; Foraſmuch as they reduce them to the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht*, to Meaſures for maritime Affairs and Commerce, and to the Satisfaction of their Allies; as long as they ſhall hold in Terms ſo general, and do not appear to be willing to treat ſeparately, for themſelves, you ought alſo to inſiſt on your firſt Demand, to leave matters in the State, in which the Fortune of War has plac'd them: That if, as there are grounds to believe, they ſhould find the Demands of the *Spaniards* unreaſonable, and perceive they obſtinately inſiſt thereon, without any Juſtice, ſo as you may ſee any Light for a ſeparate Treaty; then I would have nothing alter'd in the Orders, which I have given you for that Purpoſe.

You

You may only comprehend *Maeſtricht* in the general Offer, which I permitted you to make, for the Exchange of Places that too much incommode the Frontiers of *Spain* and *Holland*, or which may be convenient for mine; provided that I receive elſewhere an Equivalent in the Territories of the King of *Spain*, or in ſome other Country under his Dominion.

Foraſmuch as by the Treaty of the *States-General* with the King of *Spain*, they were oblig'd to deliver up to him the City of *Maeſtricht*, after what manner ſoever they came by it; it would be the part of *Spain* to adjuſt the Equivalent, when that Place being in my Poſſeſſion ſhall give His Catholick Majeſty and the *Hollanders* too much Jealouſy.

All theſe Anſwers, wich I judge it expedient you ſhould make, are only in caſe the Mediators, by reducing my Enemies to Claims more reaſonable, ſhould alſo ſeek out Methods of drawing you neater: Till then, you ought to inſiſt on the Fairneſs of the Propoſals you have given them, and wait till by their Mediation, they give you occaſion to explain yourſelves farther.

Your ſaid Letter of the 9th inſtant, diſcovers to me the little diſpoſition you have found in the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, to admit of any Medium with the Duke of *Zell*, as to any Partition of the Duchy of *Bremen*: So that foraſmuch as I cannot treat of the Intereſts of *Sweden*, without the Conſent of that Crown, I approve of the manner in which you the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* have determin'd to write to the Ducheſs of *Zell*; ſhe will be ſenſible, I do every thing that lies in my Power, to give Marks of my Affection to the Duke her Husband, and to make a ſtrict Alliance with him; and perhaps he may have regard to this Step, ſo

as

as to diſengage himſelf from my Enemies, in order to treat afterwards with the King of *Sweden*.

As I have grounds to approve of the Conduct of my Lord *Berkley*, as to the Refuſal he made, to receive from the Hands of the Allies, the Propoſals which were deliver'd to them on your part, under Colour that there were none which related to the Prince of *Lorrain*: So have I reaſon to be diſſatisfy'd with the Compliance Sir *Lionel Jenkins* ſhew'd, in taking them back again. I enjoin'd the Sieur *Courtin* to complain of it to the King of *England*; but I am very glad to hear, that this Difficulty has been terminated, ſince the Return of Monſieur *Beverning*, and that your Propoſals are put again into the Hands of the Miniſters of my Enemies.

I perceive by your Diſpatch, that you are preparing not to receive the Viſit of Monſieur *Straatman*; becauſe you think, he might before viſit the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark*, and thoſe of *Sweden*, of whom he receiv'd a Viſit before yours: But I am much ſurpriz'd, That after having heard that he had ſet an Hour to the ſaid Ambaſſador, which you had deſir'd of him; you ſhould put yourſelves in a Condition to viſit him, ſince you would have treated him with all manner of Juſtice, in not going to his Houſe, at the Hour he appointed you; in regard that he had preferr'd other Ambaſſadors before you, in the Order of the Viſits.

It remains for me to return Anſwer, to your firſt Diſpatches: I leave it to your Care to ſecure yourſelves from the Inconveniencies that may ariſe from a Clauſe, which the Ambaſſador has added to his Full-Power, relating to Monſieur *Peſkum*; either by a Proteſtation which you may put into the Hands of the Mediators, That the Quality of Collegue to the Ambaſſadors of *Denmark*, which is given him, may diminiſh nothing from the

the Validity of what ſhall be concluded by the ſaid Ambaſſadors; or laſtly, by ſuch other means, as you ſhall find out for your Security.

I have given Orders for the diſpatching of the five Powers, which are neceſſary for you, according to the Scheme that was agreed upon by the Mediators, and of which you have ſent me a Copy.

I continue ſtill in the deſign, that you ſhould make preſſing Inſtances, with the Mediators, for the Liberty of Prince *William*, and that you ſhould put them in mind, That I have chiefly conſented to the Recommendation of the King their Maſter, for reſuming the Conferences at *Nimeguen*, upon a Promiſe he made me, ſtrenuouſly to employ his Offices in that Affair, when the Aſſembly ſhould be form'd.

Neither do I change my Opinion, as to the Proteſtation I order'd you to make, concerning the Title of the Duke of *Lorrain*, which I gave in my Paſports to Prince *Charles*: But foraſmuch as the Procedure of my Enemies has but too plainly ſhewn me hitherto, That they affect the leaſt Pretences, in order to raiſe Difficulties in the Negotiation; I thought it expedient to defer my Commands, that you ſhould put thoſe Orders in Execution, till the ſame had proceeded farther; ſo that you may reſerve the diſcharging of them, till I give you new ones. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written from the Camp before Valenciennes, *the* 17*th of* March, 1677.

LET-

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*
Dated *March* 17. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Diſpatch which you receive by this Poſt, is ſo full, that I have little to add thereto.

The Propoſal the *States-General* have given in, for the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange*, is ſo agreeable, that the King did not think fit to return an Anſwer thereto; no nor even to a Memorial of the ſame Nature, which the Count *d' Auvergne* had exhibited touching *Bergenoptzoom*. 'Tis ſufficient that you demand the Reſtitution of it, in the Treaty of Peace, to the State in which it was, before the War was declar'd, and according to the Memorials which the Count *d' Auvergne* deliver'd to you, at that time.

I have ſent to the Chancellor, the five Full-Powers which are neceſſary for you; and he will take care to direct them to you, as ſoon as they are ſeal'd.

Howſoever ill-grounded the Biſhop of *Munſter*'s Apprehenſion may be, of a Treaty between the *States*, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the Duke of *Zell*; 'tis expedient, Gentlemen, that you ſhould leave him in his Error, and not free him from the Jealouſy he entertains of his Allies: I very much fear, leſt the Embaraſments of the Field ſhould diſturb the Regularity of the Correſpondence, which I hold with you; but that Want of Certainty will be well recompenc'd by the great News which I ſend you.

The

The Taking of *Valenciennes* makes a great Noiſe throughout all *Europe*: 'Tis to be wiſh'd, it might produce all the neceſſary Effect at *Nimeguen*, and incline *Spain* to Peace: I hope to inform you very ſuddenly of the reſt of His Majeſty's Campagne, and intreat you in the mean time, Gentlemen, to believe, that I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *March* 19. 1677.

SIRE,

WE went Yeſterday to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, who told us, That they knew from good Hands, that the King of *Denmark* and the Elector of *Brandenburg* deſign'd to attack the Iſle of *Rugen*, in order to make themſelves Maſters of *Straelſond* and *Stetin*, which would afterwards infallibly fall of their own accord. 'Tis with this View, that the Envoy of *Denmark* ſo ſtrongly preſſes for the fitting out of the Men of War, which the *States* promis'd to the King his Maſter; and Monſieur *Tromp* had no other end in his Voyage, than to bring that Fleet; the Elector of *Brandenburg* came alſo with that Deſign, which it will be ſo much the more eaſie for them to carry, in regard that the Iſle of *Rugen* is open on all ſides, without ſo much as one Fort, and Monſieur *Koningsmark* has not Troops enough, to hinder their Landing: So that thoſe Ambaſſadors ſpoke to us of that Affair, as if they perceiv'd it almoſt without Remedy, and with Countenances ſo caſt down, that we very well diſcover'd they had not a little Apprehenſion of what they told us. We made them all the Overtures we could, to find out ſome Expedients;

Expedients; but we always found them more reſolute than was ſuitable to the preſent Poſture of their Affairs, without giving the Princes who might be drawn off from the contrary Party, the leaſt hopes to retain any Place in their Conqueſts. They only gave us to underſtand, That they could not have any other Succour, than what Your Majeſty ſhould afford them by your Ships; but we ſhew'd to them the Impracticableneſs of it, and they have acknowledg'd it. We only promis'd them to ſpeak to Monſieur *Beverning*, when we ſhould ſee him; and the Intereſt the *States* have, to hinder this great Power of *Denmark* and *Brandenburg*, is, that the *Swedes* ſhould not be entirely driven out of *Germany*.

We believe that he is as ſenſible of it, as we, but that he durſt not own it; the rather, becauſe he ſees nobody among the *States*, who openly expreſſes a deſire of Peace; tho' nevertheleſs, they all have it in their Hearts, and do not diſcover it, partly thro' Fear, becauſe they are perſuaded, That we are not inclin'd thereto: And foraſmuch as they are ignorant of Your Majeſty's favourable Diſpoſitions; they are not willing to engage in propoſing a Matter, from which they don't ſee how they can get off.

This made us reſolve to loſe no Opportunity, of entring into Buſineſs with the Ambaſſadors of the *States*; as well knowing, that they will communicate to their Maſters, every thing that we ſhall tell them, and which has been hitherto hid from them.

Sire, we have alſo heard from the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, who have ſeen Monſieur *Beverning* ſince us, That the ſaid Ambaſſador told them, that in a Conference which the Allies had together, touching the Anſwer which he ought to make to our Propoſals, they declar'd, they could reſolve upon

upon nothing, till they had receiv'd Orders from their Maſters; and that a Month's time would be requiſite for that purpoſe: That thereupon the ſaid *Beverning* ask'd them, whether they were Plenipotentiaries or not; and that if upon each Article, they were oblig'd to write about it, and wait for an Anſwer; it could not be reckon'd, that this Negotiation would ever come to an end: That for his part, he declar'd to them, That he had his Orders, which he would execute in two Days; and that he would endeavour to procure a Peace for the *States-General*, and for them alſo. This Diſcourſe confirms what Monſieur *Beverning* told us in his Viſits, That he only waited for certain Papers, to get ſome Light touching the Affair of Commerce, about which he was not thoroughly inſtructed; but that he ſhould receive them in two Days time, and that at that very Inſtant he would come again to ſee us; he alſo added, that Monſieur *Haeren* would return at the ſame time, who is no leſs well affected than he.

This, Sire, gave us hopes, That the two Ambaſſadors, who are certainly inclin'd for Peace, will repreſent to the *States-General*, the Advantages Your Majeſty is willing to grant them, and which we plainly perceive they have been ignorant of to this Day. The ſame Ambaſſadors told us, That the Elector of *Brandenburg* was come, to endeavour to make up a Match between the Prince of *Orange* and the Princeſs of *Radzevil*, upon Condition to reſign to the Prince of *Orange*, the Duchy of *Cleves*, and the County of *Marck*; provided that Prince ſhould leave to the Elector, the whole Eſtate of the Princeſs of *Radzevil*, that lies in *Pruſſia*, and which is conſiderable; and ſhould ſecure to him, the Conqueſt of *Pomerania*: Theſe Deſigns ſquare very well with

the Views of *Denmark*, who contents herself with her Partition on that side of the Island of *Rugen*; neither are they less agreeable to the Steps of the Prince of *Orange*, which all tend to War. We hope, Sire, that you will be no less prosperous in the Field, than you was the last Year; and that God will so far bless your Majesty's Arms, as to oblige your Enemies to make Peace, which they have so long refused. These are the Prayers, Sire, of, &c.

LETTER
From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 19. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to what we give ourselves the Honour to write to the King. We see that every thing is preparing for War, and as far as we can judge, upon account of *Maestricht*. All that we desire, Sir, for the Glory of the King's Arms, and the Good of Peace, is, That the Prince of *Orange* may have no better Success than he had the last Year. The Blow he receiv'd the last Campagne, has hinder'd him this Year from speaking with the same Haughtiness, as he was wont; and he has only put off the Peace by his Artifices. If he sustains a greater Loss this Year, we doubt not but he will be entirely ruin'd; and that those who are well affected, will make us conclude a Peace very speedily with the *States* of *Holland*, who earnestly desire it, and can no longer, as it were, sustain the Burden of the War.

The

The Prince of *Orange* came to *Arnheim*; but ſince it was in order to viſit the Elector of *Brandenburg*, who is ſick at *Ham*, inſomuch that the Phyſicians judg'd he was not in a Condition to be remov'd, that Prince goes this day to *Bremen*. Sir, in the Neceſſity we were under, of ſending ſome Domeſticks to *Paris*, and of getting others from thence, we deſir'd, ſome days ago, a Paſſport from the Duke *de Villahermoſa*, for ſome of our Men, who refus'd it us. And Don *Ronquillo*, to whom we made Application, told us, that if we could have a Power, which extends only to give Paſports to the Domeſticks of the Ambaſſadors, who are in this Aſſembly at *Nimeguen*, there would be much more Convenience for it; becauſe he might have a like Power, without ſtanding in need to have recourſe to the Duke *de Villahermoſa*. For this reaſon, Sir, we made him no Anſwer, whereof we give you a plain Account. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *March* 23. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have not receiv'd your Majeſty's Diſpatch by this Poſt, and we are not ſurprized, that the Orders you have been oblig'd to give in *Valenciennes*, retard, for ſome days, thoſe with which you would honour us, tho' we have always hop'd for a great deal from the potent Efforts of your Majeſty, and the admirable manner in which you attack the ſtrongeſt Places. We cannot forbear being concerned in the great

Surprize wherein the Ambaſſadors and Miniſters of *Europe* are here, that ſo large a Town, ſo well fortified, defended by ſo ſtrong a Garriſon, and a prodigious Number of Inhabitants, ſo reſolute, as to have already repulſed two of your Majeſty's Armies, commanded by your ableſt Generals, ſhould be forced to ſurrender, of its own accord, in no more than ſeven Days after the Opening of the Trenches. 'Tis certain, Sire, that this mighty Blow produces a very different Effect in this Aſſembly; for the Joy we feel, cannot be expreſs'd; and the Conſternation of our Enemies is ſo much the greater, in regard that they always flatter'd themſelves, and even gave out, that that City would deſtroy the greateſt Part of your Troops, and take up, at leaſt, a Month's time. 'Tis a long while ago, ſince your Majeſty gave them to underſtand, that nothing was impoſſible to you, and that there are no Bulwarks ſo ſtrong againſt your Valour, as a good Peace. God grant, that they may ſpeedily make uſe of ſo many Documents, and that thereby ridding themſelves of the juſt Apprehenſions which your Arms give them, they may alſo remove from us thoſe which involve us in Dangers, to which you too often expoſe your Perſon. Since our firſt Propoſals, they have kept Silence; but Monſieur *Beverning* has given us Hopes, that he will ſhortly break it. And, really, the Intentions of that Miniſter appear to us ſo ſincere, that we cannot doubt but he will make us ſome Overture of Peace, in a little time, unleſs the Prince of *Orange*, being retained either by the Money which begins to be ſent him from *Spain*, or by the Propoſals of Marriage, or the Ceſſion of the Duchy of *Cleves*, (which, 'tis ſaid, will be yielded up to him, on the part of the Elector of *Brandenburg*) ſhould hinder that Ambaſſador from acting; and

by concealing your Majeſty's good Intentions from the *States*, continue them in the belief of what Sir *William Temple* could not refrain here from telling us, *viz.* That your Majeſty could not ſincerely deſire a Peace, conſidering the proſperous State of your Affairs.

Our Allies wiſh, that our firſt Viſits to Monſieur *Beverning*, may be to repreſent to him, that if by means of the Aſſiſtance of fifteen Men of War, which the *States-General* have reſolv'd to ſend the King of *Denmark*, he ſhould take the Iſland of *Rugen*, which would infallibly diſpoſſeſs the *Swedes* of *Stralſond*, and, by conſequence, of what remains in *Pomerania*; the Peace would become impoſſible, by reaſon of the Guaranty which your Majeſty, and all the *States* of the Empire, are obliged to give to *Sweden*. We believe alſo, it would be of Service to your Majeſty, to ſhew thoſe Conſequences to Monſieur *Beverning*, who being already convinced, that it does not comport with the Intereſt of his Maſters, to augment the Power of the King of *Denmark* upon the *Baltick-Sea*, nor entirely to drive the *Swedes* out of *Germany*, might be able to inſinuate to the *States*, the Neceſſity there is, to take away all Obſtructions, that may hinder the *Swediſh* Fleet from carrying Succours into *Pomerania*. One of the Ambaſſadors of that Crown, being come to bewail with us its preſent ſad Condition, and the too juſt Apprehenſion they are under, of the entire Loſs of *Pomerania*, added, that he was throughly perſuaded, that your Majeſty would always ſupport the Intereſts of *Sweden*, with the ſame Zeal as your own; and that in ſo Auguſt a Reign, which an infinite Number of Conqueſts advances incomparably above all the Glory your moſt Renowned Anceſtors ever acquired, your Allies have no reaſon to fear the Misfortune of being

abandon'd: That, nevertheleſs, if *Sweden* ſhould loſe what it remains poſſeſs'd of in *Germany*, all the Efforts, and all the Charges your Majeſty ſhould lay out, in proceſs of time, for its Eſtabliſhment, would be to no purpoſe; and you would have the Regret to ſee that Crown deprived, in a War which it only maintains for the Intereſt of *France*, of every thing it has obtained by the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*: That if your Majeſty could ſpeedily afford ſome extraordinary Aſſiſtance to Count *Konigſmark*, he might ſtill make ſome Levies, either by corrupting the Enemies Troops, or by engaging in the Service of *Sweden*, Perſons of Quality, and experienced Colonels, who offer to raiſe Troops in a ſhort time; and by that means, would preſerve *Stetin*, *Stralſond*, and the Iſland of *Rugen*; ſo that what Damage could not be repair'd at the end of the Year, for a great many Millions, would be now made up, by an Expence of three or four hundred thouſand Livres; and that ſo generous an Effect of your Majeſty's powerful Protection of your Allies, would infallibly bring over to you, in a ſhort time, the moſt conſiderable Princes of *Germany*, and cauſe you to obtain Conditions of Peace, much more advantageous than you could hope for, when *Sweden* has no longer any Footing in *Germany*. He added, that your Majeſty was in ſome ſort obliged thereto, by the 13th Article of the Treaty made at *Verſailles*, in 1675, by Monſieur *de Pompone*, which he read at the ſame time. But we repreſented to him, that this Treaty no longer oblig'd your Majeſty to any thing, but what you have already done in favour of *Sweden*. That that Crown never had ſo great Subſidies, as thoſe it receives at this inſtant: That the Charges your Majeſty has been at, for carrying on ſo ſevere a War, are ſo prodigious, that 'tis

not

not poſſible for you to augment them, without oppreſſing your Subjects, for whoſe Preſervation you even expoſe a Life, in which their whole Happineſs conſiſts. Finally, Sire, not to tire out your Majeſty with a longer Enumeration of Particulars, we rejected that Propoſal, without ſo much as taking upon us to write to you about it; and we have done it, only to inform you of the Confuſion thoſe Ambaſſadors are in. They have ſent an Expreſs to the King their Maſter, under Colour of new Full Powers; but, in reality, to acquaint him with the Deſign his Enemies have formed againſt the Iſland of *Rugen*, and to diſpoſe him rather to hazard a Fight at Sea, tho' with unequal Forces, than ſuffer that Iſland to be taken, and conſequently, *Straelſund*, without attempting to relieve it.

Monſieur *Beverning* ſets out this day for *Arnheim*, to concert the Propoſals he is to make to us, with Monſieur *Fagel*, who is to be there for that purpoſe.

'Tis believ'd, the Conference of *Weſel* will not be held, by reaſon of the Increaſe of the Elector of *Brandenburg*'s Illneſs, which hitherto does not ſuffer him to go out of *Ham*.

We are alſo under an Obligation, to give your Majeſty an Account of certain Difficulties, which were occaſion'd by the Viſits that Monſieur *Straatman*, third Ambaſſador of the Emperor, was obliged to pay; that which he ow'd to the Mediators, made the firſt Difficulty, Count *Kinsky* having aſk'd Sir *William Temple*, whether he would meet Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, at the Houſe of my Lord *Berkley*, there to receive the Viſit of the ſaid Monſieur *Straatman*? the ſaid Sir *William Temple* made Anſwer, That when that Ambaſſador ſhould deſire to know of every one in particular, the Hour of Audience, as it was always practis'd;

it would be their Buſineſs to ſee, whether it comports moſt with the Dignity of their Mediation, if every one ſhould give it at home, or ſhould meet at the ſaid Lord's Houſe. But that he did not believe, that Monſieur *Straatman* deſign'd to preſcribe any thing to them thereupon; ſince he had no greater Right in the matter, than your Majeſty's Ambaſſadors, and thoſe of other Kings, who have hitherto left thoſe to whom they return'd the Viſits, at an entire Liberty to receive them after what manner they ſhould think fit. Count *Kinsky* reply'd, That what others had done, ought not to ſerve as a Rule for him; and that the Viſits he himſelf had paid to every one of them in particular, ought not to be look'd upon as Precedents, ſince they were made *incognito*. That if his Opinion were follow'd, Monſieur *Straatman* would only pay them to each Body of the Embaſſy, and at the Houſe of the firſt Ambaſſador only; the rather, becauſe he was very ſenſible, that your Majeſty had order'd us to receive them all together, at the Houſe of the firſt of us. Sir *William Temple*, who came to give us an Account of this whole Conference, added, That he had always maintain'd, that they ought to conform themſelves to the Cuſtom eſtabliſhed in this Aſſembly, and that ſince he did not acknowledge any Superiority in the Imperial Dignity, he alſo expected to receive of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, the ſame Honours as he did them, and not have a Law given him, to meet where they ſhall think fit. That nevertheleſs, Count *Kinsky* ſtood firm in his Opinion, and back'd it after ſuch a manner, as clearly makes it appear, that he pretended more Honour was due to the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, than to thoſe of the greateſt Kings. We only told him, that we look'd upon your Majeſty's Dignity to be no

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leſs ſecured by receiving the Viſits in a Body, at the Houſe of the firſt of us, than if they were paid to every one of us apart. That we had even made uſe of the former way, with reſpect to Monſieur *Hyde*, who left it at our Choice; and that when Monſieur *Straatman* ſhould act with the ſame Civility to us, we would make no ſcruple to do the ſame thing again; but that we could not believe, that he would impoſe it upon us as a Condition, without which he would not render to us what is our due. We have heard ſince, that Sir *William Temple* was viſited at his Houſe by the ſaid Monſieur *Straatman*; who has alſo done the ſame Honour to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*. But foraſmuch as we ought not to have any other Rule, than that of your Majeſty's Orders, we made no Difficulty of taking a Reſolution to receive all together at the Houſe of me the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*, the Viſit of the ſaid Monſieur *Straatman*, in caſe that he ſends to deſire Audience of each, as all the other Ambaſſadors of crown'd Heads have done. It is true, that we were more perplex'd, to reſolve upon what Meaſures to take, if that Ambaſſador ſhould impoſe this Law upon us, as a Condition without which he could not viſit us; For on one ſide, we fear'd leſt we ſhould commit a Fault, in admitting, by that Means, a kind of Superiority in the Imperial Dignity, and a Diminution of that of your Majeſty, which we could not make up for the future. However, at laſt, to reconcile the exact Obedience we owe to your Majeſty's Orders, with the maintaining of the Character with which you have honour'd us, we determin'd not to wait till the Gentleman who deſir'd Audience of us, ſhould impoſe upon us the Condition of our going to the Houſe of the firſt of us; but that we, *Colbert* and *Avaux*, ſhould interrupt him, and tell

him, that we would not fail to be at the House of the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*, by the Hour which he preſcribed, to receive there, all together, the Viſit of the ſaid Sieur *Straatman*. But whatſoever Precaution we were able to uſe, in order to deprive the ſaid Sieur *Straatman* of all manner of Pretence, to exempt himſelf from paying us the firſt Viſit; he did not refrain viſiting the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, and to ſend alſo to the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, tho' he was abſent. After which, only his Gentleman came to me, the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*, to deſire of me the Hour of Audience; increating of me, to ſend for my Collegues thither, to reteive his Viſit. But I anſwer'd him, that the Sieur *Straatman* having been deficient in point of due Regard to his Majeſty, we could not, neither my Collegues nor I, receive his Viſit, or have any Correſpondence with him. That Gentleman was going to ask me the Reaſons of my Refuſal: But I told him, that his Maſter knew them well enough, and that he might withdraw. Sire, we thought it proper to give your Majeſty an Account of all theſe Particulars, to the end that you may take ſuch Reſolutions, as to theſe new Difficulties, as you ſhall judge moſt agreeable to your Dignity, in all the Viſits that are to be made, as well to the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, who have not yet appear'd, as to the firſt Ambaſſador of the Emperor, and to all the Miniſters of the Princes, who being Enemies to *France*, in all Appearance, will not fail to act after the ſame manner, as the Sieur *Straatman* has done. We are, with a profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 23. 1677.

SIR,

WE hear from so many Places, of the taking of *Valenciennes*, that tho' we have not receiv'd any Letters from you this Post, in order to confirm it, yet we believe we may now congratulate his Majesty upon the same. If we may give Credit to Letters from *Brussels*, he will shortly afford us another Occasion to rejoice, of the like nature. But what Advantage soever *France* reaps from his Majesty's glorious Conquests, we own, Sir, that the Dangers to which, we are inform'd, he exposes his Person, make us tremble; and that we should be very glad to hear, that by a happy Return to *Versailles*, he would give his Troops time to refresh themselves, and his Subjects liberty to taste the Fruits of all his Cares, without Troubles and Alarms. Sir, we desire you to make your Reflexions on what has occur'd in the Visits of Monsieur *Straatman*, and to give us your Advice for the future, as to the Conduct we are to observe. Our Enemies and our Friends are all agreed, as to the Precedency due to the King; and the former will revenge themselves of their Losses, by that unjust Pretension. We are, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

Sir, ſince the writing of our Letters, I heard from Madame *Beverning*, who came to ſee my Spouſe, that her Husband is not gone to *Arnheim*, as the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* told us; and that, on the contrary, he would go and ſtay a Fortnight at home, as ſoon as Monſieur *Haeren* ſhould return from *Friezeland*; all which diſcover no Earneſtneſs to forward the Negotiations of Peace.

LETTER,

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 26. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd no Letter from you ſince that of the 7th inſtant, and we are not ſurpriz'd that his Majeſty has given us no Orders touching the Negotiations of Peace, while he is labouring to promote it himſelf by ſuch Wonders, as have never been heard of hitherto. The Particulars with which we inform you by this Poſt, ſhould give us Occaſion to ſignifie to him, our Admiration, more than we have in our Proceeding: But, Sir, this Action is too far above what was ever achiev'd after the moſt heroick manner, to be ſufficiently commended; and we ſhould not ſo ſoon expreſs our Sentiments thereupon, till his Majeſty gives us freſh Matter

of

of Joy and Veneration, for ſo incomparable a Maſter.

The Mediators came to us, to deſire our Explanation as to the Refuſal which the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* made of Monſieur *Strattman*'s Viſit; telling us, that that Ambaſſador had declared to them, that having always had a profound Reſpect for his Majeſty, he was extremely ſurprized to hear, that the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades* refuſed to permit him to come and give me Aſſurances thereof, even without acquainting the Gentleman whom he ſent to me with the Reaſons; and that he was deſirous to know them by their means, in order to clear himſelf. But we do not think, Sir, we were capable of explaining ourſelves to them clearly; for ſince all the Ambaſſadors of Kings and Princes who are here, as well Friends as Enemies, and even the Mediators themſelves, will always oppoſe what is due to his Majeſty; it would be to no purpoſe, to declare ourſelves clearly in the Matter: So that we only told them, we were very much concerned, that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor had given them the Trouble to come to ſpeak to us, about a Matter already eſtabliſh'd, and which could not fall under the Buſineſs of a Negotiation: That if they had follow'd the Example of the Emperor's Ambaſſador at *Munſter*, we ſhould have joyfully receiv'd their Viſit; and that if, for the future, we had no Correſpondence directly with them, they ought to impute it to their irregular Conduct with reſpect to us. We alſo intimated, by the way, to the Mediators, that this Delay of three Weeks, in returning the Viſit, without being ſo much as excus'd by any Interpoſition, is an Affectation of Haughtineſs and Incivility, which they, the Mediators themſelves, could ſcarce ſuffer, if the Deſire of reconciling Perſons at Variance, had ren-

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der'd them more Indulgent, than they would have been in our Place and Function: That, at laſt, Monſ. *Straatman* was ſufficiently appriz'd wherein he had fail'd; and that, as for our part, we believ'd we had done what was our Duty; and that every Miniſter was oblig'd to juſtify his Conduct, rather to his Maſter, than the Publick, who did not underſtand the exact Rules of ſuch Ceremonies.

The Allies do not ſeem to be ſo ſoon diſpos'd to make any reaſonable Overture of Peace, and the vain Hopes which they always ground upon Autumn, may render them ſtill as ſlow in the Negotiations in this Campagne, as they were in the preceding. Monſieur *Beverning* gives us a fair Indication of this, by his Deſign of going to divert himſelf at home, ſo ſoon as Monſieur *Haeren* ſhould be returned from *Friezeland*. We are, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

Sir, we ſhall not inform you of all the ſecret Practices which are us'd here, among the Ambaſſadors belonging to the Parts adjacent to *France*, to cauſe the Aſſembly to be removed to another Town; foraſmuch as they are apprehenſive, with Reaſon, that this Propoſal would offend the *States-General* of the *United Provinces*; they hope, that Count *Walſtein*, who is going to *London* on the part of the Emperor, will diſpoſe the King of *Great-Britain*, to make Inſtances with his Imperial Majeſty, for the Enlargement of Prince *William* of *Furſtemburg*, upon that Occaſion. Sir, you will have more certain Notices of it, from Monſieur *Courtin*; and we ſhall make uſe of thoſe which we have with the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*,

General, to induce their Miniſters to take ſuch Reſolutions, as the proſperous Iſſue of their Affairs, and the Diffidence of their Allies, ought to inſpire them with.

Madam *Voetler*, of whom we did ourſelves the Honour to write to you, having not yet been able, by reaſon of her Indiſpoſition, to make uſe of the Paſport you ſent to us for her, within the ſpace of two Months, whereto it is limited; we are oblig'd, by way of Acknowledgment, for thoſe which ſhe has caus'd to be procur'd for our Domeſticks, to intreat you moſt humbly, Sir, to renew hers, with the Addition ſhe deſires in the Copy hereto ſubjoin'd.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *March* 29. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*; Your Letters of the 16th and 19th inſtant, would have given Me grounds to believe, That Monſieur *Beverning* would very ſuddenly have enter'd into the Negotiation with you, if I had not perceiv'd by that of the 25th, that he was preparing to take a Journey to his Country-Houſe, for three Weeks; and that during that time, he would abandon the Affairs of *Nimeguen*.

That Miniſter, who is ſo far circumſcrib'd, and yet ſo full of good Intentions for a Peace, as you believe, had reaſon to be ſurpriz'd at the Propoſals of *Spain* and *Denmark*. Nothing could be more remote from a Treaty, and it was with Juſtice, that he was deſirous to ſeparate the *States* from their Allies, if the latter continu'd to ſhew themſelves

themſelves ſo unreaſonable. In caſe he perſiſts in theſe Sentiments, and as he finds your Propoſals to be reaſonable, is willing ſincerely to diſcover the Sentiments of his Maſters to you; then I believe you may, as you have propos'd, directly let him know my Pleaſure, and the favourable Diſpoſitions I have for them, if they are ſo far affected with the Deſire of Peace, as they declare themſelves to be. Perhaps they will be capable of embracing the Means of it themſelves, when they find ſo great an Averſion in their Allies: It is more eſpecially requiſite, that you ſhould take an Advantage from the Opinion he diſcovers, That to attain to a general Peace, that of *Holland* muſt be made firſt; and that you ſhould improve the Diſſatisfaction he expreſſes, touching the Difficulty the Miniſters of *Spain* and the Emperor make, in anſwering your Propoſals, till they have firſt receiv'd Orders from their Maſters. Every thing which may divide the Allies, cannot but be advantageous to Me; and I ought particularly to wiſh, That *Holland* would treat alone for herſelf, when ſhe ſhall loſe the Hopes of doing it, with all the reſt of her Party: However, it is your Buſineſs to wait, till the Mediators endeavour to draw neareſt together, Propoſals ſo remote, as thoſe which were made on the part of my Enemies, in the firſt Opening of the Conference.

'Tis ſo impracticable, that I ſhould be capable of ſending Ships into the *Baltick* Sea, or join any Troops with thoſe of the King of *Sweden* in *Pomerania*, that whatſoever Deſire the Ambaſſadors of that Prince have expreſs'd to you, you might eaſily perſuade them, That the Poſſibility would not anſwer the ſincere Affection I have for his Intereſts. All that you can do, even as they have deſir'd him, is, to inſinuate to Monſieur *Beverning*, (if you find a proper Occaſion) That nothing is more

more contrary to the Intereſts of his Maſters, than to ſuffer the Iſland of *Rugen*, and conſequently the Town of *Straelſond*, and the reſt of *Pomerania*, to be taken from the *Swedes*. It concerns them, to keep the *Baltick*-Sea divided between *Sweden* and *Denmark*, and not to put either of thoſe Crowns into a Capacity of depriving *Holland*, one Day, of ſo conſiderable Advantages, which redound to her, from thence, by Commerce. For the reſt, whatſoever Benefit the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* endeavour to reap from the Treaty I have made with their Maſters; it is an eaſie matter for you, to make appear to them, That I have punctually diſcharg'd all the Obligations; ſince as far as it lies in my Power, I make War with all his Enemies, and cauſe the greateſt Subſidies which are granted, to be duly paid him: Nevertheleſs, I would willingly hope ſo well of the Affairs of that Prince againſt *Denmark*, that I flatter Myſelf, he will be in a Condition, to give a powerful Aſſiſtance to Count *Koningsmark*, and to keep up the Reputation of his Arms in *Germany*.

Notwithſtanding the Difficulty which Sir *William Temple* has rais'd, about receiving the Viſit of the Emperor's Ambaſſador, at the Houſe of the firſt of the Ambaſſadors of *England*; I make no Alteration in the Orders, which I gave you upon that Account: My Intention is, That you pay and receive the Viſits of Ceremony, all of you together; but to the end that no other Miniſter may appear to require it of you, even as Count *Kinsky* ſeem'd to do it, with regard to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, 'tis expedient you ſhould let them know, that you have eſtabliſh'd this Cuſtom, becauſe then they would put it to your Choice.

I approve of the Expedient you made uſe of, to give no time to the Gentleman, who was ſent

to

to you from Monſieur *Straatman*, to propoſe to you either a general Viſit, or a ſeparate one, and ſo anticipate him, by telling him, That you would meet together at the Houſe of the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*: But I perceive, you have had no occaſion for it, and that by his Carriage towards you, in the Order of his Viſits, you were oblig'd abſolutely to refuſe that which he deſign'd to make you. I have already ſignify'd to you, that you ſhould not ſee him, ſo ſoon as you ſhould hear, that he had receiv'd the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* and *Denmark* before you; ſince it plainly appear'd, that the Hour which he appointed them before you, was with a deſign to break the Rank, in Proceſs of time, which he ought to give you: I am only to renew to you, upon occaſions which ſhall offer of the like Nature hereafter, the ſame Inſtructions I have already given you.

I doubt not but as much Joy as you have diſcover'd to Me, at the Succeſs with which it has pleas'd God to bleſs my Arms at *Valenciennes*, that this Event has caus'd ſo much Uneaſineſs among the Miniſters of my Enemies, who are at *Nimeguen*: It may conduce, (if they pleas'd) to the great Work for which they are aſſembled; it ought at leaſt to let them know, how real my Intention is for Peace, ſince it is always the ſame in the middle of this Conqueſt, and thoſe which may enſue. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written from the Camp at *Cambray*, the 29th of *March*, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *March* 29. 1677.

Gentlemen,

WHatſoever reaſon there was to believe, that our Enemies would endeavour by a Peace, to ſtop the continual Progreſs of the King's Arms, and what Streſs ſoever might be laid upon the manner wherein Monſieur *Beverning* declar'd himſelf ſo often, That he would enter into a Negotiation with you; it ſeems, that the ſame Blindneſs induces him, to let that time ſlip away to no purpoſe, which ought to have been employ'd to better Advantage, in the Conferences. The Departure of Monſieur *Beverning* for his Country-Houſe, ſhews a great Tranquillity, and gives us grounds to believe, that they will give you leſs Employment, when they leave a free Courſe to His Majeſty's Arms.

Hitherto God has ſufficiently bleſs'd them in the beginning of this Campagne, and we have grounds to believe, That *Cambray* will in a very ſhort time follow the Fate of *Valenciennes*, while the Duke of *Orleans* has not yet laid a formal Siege to *St. Omers*, which he continually keeps in a manner block'd up, he having been already a long time before that Town, and ſecures His Majeſty's moſt advanc'd Places. You have anſwer'd, with your uſual Prudence, the Complaints which the Mediators brought to you, about the manner after which the King's Forces have acted in the Neighbourhood of *Dunk-Pouts*: Foraſmuch as all their Miniſtry

Miniſtry relates to Peace, and ought not to adjuſt what happens in War; they might have declin'd that Commiſſion; or at leaſt, they ought to have diſcharg'd it with leſs Heat; and the Aggravations which Sir *William Temple* made uſe of, may be fairly ſuſpected to ſavour of Partiality.

The ſame Inſtances the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* made to you, touching a Supply of Men and Ships, were offer'd a long time ago, by the Miniſter of that Crown, to His Majeſty, and to Monſieur *de Feuquiere* in *Sweden*: Gentlemen, you may well judge, That 'tis very eaſie to anſwer theſe Demands, by the Impoſſibility there is of ſending Foot-Soldiers into ſo remote Provinces; and by the Difficulties, which are no leſs, in ſending Veſſels to the *Baltick* Sea, expos'd in their Paſſage, to all the maritime Forces of *Holland* and *Denmark*: Alſo all theſe Demands have been almoſt continually clos'd, with thoſe for an Augmentation of Subſidies, which in the preſent State of Affairs, and conſidering the Charges His Majeſty is to defray, is no leſs impracticable; more eſpecially, when His Majeſty cauſes a Subſidy of 800000 Crowns to be ſo regularly paid. Altho' you ſhould have render'd the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* capable of hearkening to theſe Arguments, I thought fit nevertheleſs for your Inſtruction, to inform you of theſe Particulars, to the end that you may the better underſtand what has happen'd in this Affair to this very Day. That which is to be deſir'd is, that the proſperous Succeſs of the King of *Sweden*'s Arms in the Province of *Schonen*, may put him in a Condition of heading Part of his Troops, for the Defence of the Iſland of *Rugen*, on which depends the Preſervation of what he has left in *Pomerania*. By Letters which the King has receiv'd from Monſieur *de Feuquiere*, of the 15th *ult.* they are preparing

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a great Armament by Sea, and if the Fleet (according to his Account) conſiſts of 150 Sail of Ships, there is reaſon to hope, that they may retrieve the Affairs of that Crown.

Monſieur *Bond*, Reſident of *Sweden* with the King, writes to me from *Paris*, That 'tis propos'd at *Nimeguen*, to grant Paſſage to a Courier into *Sweden*, every Fortnight; provided that *France* would permit the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, to diſpatch one in the like manner every Fortnight, to *Madrid*. I do not perceive, that this Demand has been as yet made to you; but in caſe it ſhould, you know the King is not willing to allow it: What is ſufficient to balance Matters, is, that the King of *Denmark* permits a Paſſage for the Poſt every Fortnight, for *Sweden*, thro' his Dominions; becauſe His Majeſty, conſents that one ſhould paſs every Fortnight from *Bruſſels* to *Madrid*, through *France*.

I know not whether we can deſire any thing more advantageous for us, of the Prince of *Orange*, than the Siege which he ſeems to deſign upon *Maeſtricht*: We ſhall have ſo much the more reaſon, to expect the ſame Succeſs, as the laſt Year, in regard that the Garriſon of that Place is now ſtronger and in a better Condition. 'Tis eaſie to judge of the Effect, which the taking of *Valenciennes* has produc'd in your Aſſembly; as it has been to you an occaſion of Joy, ſo it will be equally matter of Sorrow, to moſt of the other Miniſters, who are therein, and of Aſtoniſhment to all. At this Inſtant, every body's Eyes are turn'd to the Siege of *Cambray*: The Trenches were open'd this Night, without loſing above one Man before the Town, which 'tis very probable, will hold out but a few Days, and afterwards leave an open Paſſage to the Citadel: A ſhort time will finiſh this Enterprize, in a Seaſon, when the firſt Prepa-

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rations are ſcarce wont to be made, in order to open the Campagne.

Gentlemen, I have ſent you the five Full-Powers, which are neceſſary for you, and I have annex'd thereto a Paſport, which Monſieur *Van Benninguen* caus'd to be deſir'd of the King, by Monſieur *Courtin*: 'Tis in favour of one of his Nephews, who was wounded laſt Year at the Siege of *Maeſtricht*, and is going to ſeek for a Cure in *France*: He ought to fetch it from you. Be always perſuaded, Gentlemen, if you pleaſe, of the Sincerity, with which I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *March* 30. 1677.

SIRE,

WE receiv'd the Letter Your Majeſty did us the Honour to write to us, of the 17th inſtant, and have ſeen the Orders You were pleas'd to give us, as to the Anſwers which You deſire ſhould be made to the Propoſals of all the Allies, with your Injunctions, as to the Time and Manner wherein you would have every thing to be done, which we ſhall exactly obey, without preſſing or ſpeaking of any thing whatſoever, only as the Mediators ſhall preſs us about the Explications, Approaches, or Alterations, which Your Majeſty's Enemies ſhall make in their Propoſals; and to repeat nothing that is uſeleſs to Your Majeſty, we will not ſpecify to you any thing in particular, of what we ſhall do upon each, becauſe Your Majeſty's Intentions are ſo clearly explain'd, as to all in general, and every one in particular,

that

that we need only read them, and execute the ſame upon every Occaſion that ſhall offer.

We have only the Honour to tell Your Majeſty, That we ſhall follow with Application, all the Steps and Proceedings of the *States-General*, and ſhall act, as to *Maeſtricht*, according to the ſide to which we ſhall ſee them adhere; that is to ſay, we ſhall follow Your Majeſty's firſt Orders, from which the laſt that you gave us do not vary: If we don't find them inclin'd to draw off by a private Treaty, and they are not willing to quit the general One, we ſhall not ſpeak of *Maeſtricht*, but as one of the advanc'd Places, which Your Majeſty would have reckon'd in the number of thoſe, which ought to make the Exchange for that Barrier, which has been ſo much talk'd of, with the Conditions and Supplements by the *Spaniards*, which Your Majeſty explains to us ſo clearly, by your Diſpatch; ſince that Place ought to yield and turn to their Benefit; and by that means Your Majeſty puts us in a Capacity, to be able to make anſwer to all the Reports, which may be ſpread abroad, for the future, on the part of the Prince of *Orange*, That this Place was offer'd him, by me the Mareſchal *d' Eſtrades*: And in caſe he ſhould boaſt of it, and endeavour to take advantage thereby, I ſhould have reaſon to ſay, That the Offers I might have made, concerning *Maeſtricht*, were always under the Condition of that Exchange and Supplement; For it may happen, That that Prince, who has hitherto kept the Secret, would not continue in the ſame Reſervedneſs, when he perceives, that we return an Anſwer to ſo ample and unreaſonable a Memorial, which he caus'd to be preſented, concerning *Orange*; purſuant to the Orders Your Majeſty has given us. Every time that we ſpoke to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, touching the Affair of the

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Duke of *Zell*, they continu'd to repreſent to us, the Obſtacles and Impoſſibilities, which they believ'd there were, in making a ſtrict Alliance with him, upon the Conditions we propos'd to them.

We have already given an Account to Your Majeſty, of the Reaſons which oblig'd us to refuſe Monſieur *Straatman*'s Viſit, and we do ourſelves the Honour to let you know, by this Diſpatch, what engag'd us to go and ſee him, tho' he had already receiv'd the Viſits of ſome other Ambaſſadors; as ſoon as he had notify'd his Arrival to us, we ſent that very Moment, which was preciſely at ten a Clock, to deſire an Audience of him, that ſame Morning: He made anſwer to our Gentlemen, That he could not before Dinner, and that after he had din'd, he had an Affair of Conſequence with the Envoy of the Elector of *Cologn*, which he could not put off, and would laſt till ſix a Clock, which was the Hour he aſſign'd us, and which we accepted. Our Gentlemen could obtain no clearer Diſcovery from him, and therein we follow'd the Orders which Your Majeſty gave us, in a Letter of the 17th of *January*, which are, not to diſcover, till we ſend to demand Audience, That we inſiſt to be viſited before all the other Ambaſſadors; becauſe that would be to imply a Doubt, which we ought not to have in a matter that can admit of none: We follow'd the ſame Orders in the Sequel; for tho' we had heard, that Monſieur *Straatman* had receiv'd the Viſit of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* at two a Clock, and that of the *Swedes* at four, yet we did not refrain from going to viſit him at ſix a Clock, with the ſame Principle, that we ſhew'd in our Letters of the 25th of *February*, and which was approv'd of; namely, That the Preference of Your Majeſty, before other Kings being indiſputable, did not depend on being reſident either nearer or farther

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off from an Ambaſſador, and in preventing (by the Proximity of the Neighbourhood, or by a private Intelligence with the Ambaſſador, who is to be viſited) thoſe of Your Majeſty, who claim with Juſtice to be viſited firſt, tho' they only return their Viſits laſt. This, Sire, was what made us reſolve to go to the Houſe of Monſieur *Straatman*. We have given an exact Account of what happen'd afterwards, and ſhall not repeat it, for fear of tiring Your Majeſty, by telling you every Circumſtance, wherein we kept exactly to your Orders: But forasmuch as Your Majeſty does not approve, that we have viſited Monſieur *Straatman*, we beſeech You to permit us to lay down here ſome Reflexions we have made, which may ſerve for a Rule to us hereafter; ſince we may have ſhortly freſh Occaſions of Conteſt about the ſame Matter. 'Tis certain, that the Precedency of Your Majeſty, before other Kings, is ſo well eſtabliſh'd, that the Ambaſſadors of *France* have always claim'd to be viſited the firſt, of all the Ambaſſadors, who compoſe any Aſſembly, in what order and time ſoever they ſhould make their Viſit. The other Ambaſſadors, on the contrary, who therein are link'd by one common Intereſt, and endeavour to conſtitute an Equality among all the Kings, pretend that when an Ambaſſador is arriv'd in a Place, where he is to meet with other Ambaſſadors, he ought to return them the Viſits in the ſame Order, ſo as he who comes laſt ſhould be viſited by them. It muſt alſo be obſerv'd, That there is a different Cuſtom of Viſiting him that comes laſt, according to the different Places: For example, an Ambaſſador, who arrives in a Place, where a Court is, and who ſtays there ſome time *incognito*, does not uſually give Notice of his Arrival; nevertheleſs, the others go to viſit him, and he who is moſt expeditious, and ſoon

gets the first Intelligence, makes the first Visit. This Custom is established at *Venice*. However, the Pope's Nuncio has Orders, even altho' the Ambassador of *France* had been at his House, or had sent thither last, to pay him a Visit, before that of *Spain*. This is what Monsieur *Visconti*, who is Nuncio to your Majesty, can certify. But in regard they avoid, as far as lies in their Power, to shew so great a Deference, the Nuncios use their utmost Efforts, to the end the Ambassadors of *France* may visit them first, or, at least, cause them to make a Compliment, the better to cover this Preference. The Ambassadors of *Venice* have Orders to do the like; so that the Ambassadors of *France* send to them to make the first Compliments. All this is to be understood of the Treatment which is received *Incognito*, for as soon as the Nuncios, or the Ambassadors of *Venice*, in whatsoever place they may be, have made their Entry, they do not fail to assign the first Audience to the Ambassadors of *France*.

At *Nimeguen*, no Difference is made between *Cognito* or *Incognito*; for as soon as an Ambassador is arrived, he gives Notice thereof to the other Ambassadors. Those who have done well, such as my Lord *Berkley*, Monsieur *Clyde*, and the Ambassadors of *Denmark*, sent to give Notice to those of *France*, above two Hours before, and so gave them Means to desire the first Audience. Monsieur *Swaanen* sent different Gentlemen to the Houses of all the Ambassadors at the same time; so that the Neatness of the Hours, or Change, decides in that case the Preference of the Visits, and all the Application and Expedition of the Ambassadors of *France*, cannot in any wise be serviceable to them, upon the like Occasion. This is upon this Point, that we desire Orders, and

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since the same Difficulty may speedily happen again, we thought ourselves obliged to give your Majesty an Account of an Expedient, which we have resolved to make use of.

That which we had propos'd, to notify to them, when we demanded, I mean, sent to them to desire Audience, insisting, that they should visit us before all other Ambassadors, is the same which the Ambassadors of *Munster* made use of, with respect to Count *Trautmansdorf*, when they sent to tell him, by Monsieur *de St. Romain*. The Business succeeded; so that Count *Trautmansdorf*, to secure the Honour of *Spain*, went to see the Ambassador of that Nation; but as a Minister of a Prince of the Imperial Family, without making a Precedent; that is to say, without the Rank, and before he had seen the Mediators, he went to visit the Ambassadors of *France*. This Expedient for making this Declaration to the Ambassadors newly arrived, not being approv'd of, there remain but two; either that of not visiting the Ambassador, if he assign'd an Audience before us; in which case, there would be a very great Inconvenience, which is, if we refuse to visit an Ambassador, by reason that having assign'd an Audience before us, we ought to apprehend, that in the returning of the Visit, he should follow the same Order, and should first visit all the Ambassadors who had visited him before us; we should thereby discover, that we doubted of our Right, which is, to be visited first, tho' we return the Visit last; and should also have annex'd the Preference to Chance, or a thousand Accidents which may happen. And the Expedient we have taken, to go, altho' last, always presupposes, that in the returning of the Visits, they should secure to us what is due to us, in the Resolution of refusing the Visit, in case they do not make it

to us in Order. But your Majesty not judging it expedient, that we should observe this last Method, there remains one more, which we have resolved to follow, if there be Occasion, before we receive your Orders upon this Memorial; that is, to send to desire Audience, as we have done, at the very instant that an Ambassador notifies his Arrival to us. If he be willing to grant it us first, we will go; but in case he gives it another before us, we shall send him Word, that not having lost a Moment of Time since he notified his Arrival to us, and perceiving, nevertheless, that he has already given Audiences to others; it must undoubtedly follow, that he gave Notice of his Arrival to them first; and having, in that respect, failed in his due Regard to your Majesty, we will not visit him: So that we shall not go to the House of a Person, from whom we cannot receive a Visit; and we should ground the Refusal we make to go to his House, upon an Argument, which may turn to our Disadvantage; as it would happen, if we should seek to ground it upon the Reason, that we would not go last, for fear of being visited last.

Sire, we shall make use of the Power which your Majesty has given us, touching the Sieur *Petkum*, according as we shall judge most expedient for your Service; which will be apparently by way of Protestation, as far as we can discover it by the Terms your Majesty has made use of. We take of the Five Full Powers, which your Majesty commanded to be seal'd, to be made use of by us, pursuant to your Orders, and to be exchanged according to Agreement.

We shall also punctually execute your Majesty's Orders, as to the Instances you have enjoin'd us to make with the Mediators, for the Liberty of Prince *William*, whom we will put in mind of every

thing

thing you have preſcrib'd to us, that it was principally upon the Recommendation of the King of *England* their Maſter, and upon the Promiſe he made your Majeſty, ſtrenuouſly to employ his Offices in that Affair, when the Aſſembly ſhould be formed, that you conſented to renew the Conferences. We ſhall obſerve the ſame thing, as to the Proteſtation, for the Title of the Duke of *Lorrain*, which your Majeſty has given in Paſports to Prince *Charles*; and we ſhall refer the Execution thereof to freſh Orders, which your Majeſty gives us Occaſion to hope for. We are, with Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *March* 30. 1677.

SIR,

WE ſhall always be very well ſatisfied, when upon the like Occaſion, you ſhall abate ſomewhat of your uſual Exactneſs, in honouring us with your Letters.

There is nothing ſo great and ſo glorious for the King, nor ſo inconceivable, as the Reduction of *Valenciennes*, which we hope will be ſpeedily follow'd by that of *Cambray* and *St. Omers*; upon which, we know not how ſufficiently to expreſs our Joy, altho' we have already diſcharged that Duty by our former Letters. Sir, we anſwer to what is particularly contained in the Letter, which you did us the Honour to write to us the 17th inſtant, that we ſhould only demand, at a

proper time, in the Treaty, the Reſtitution of *Bergenopzoom*, to the State wherein it was before the War was declared, purſuant to the Memorial which you gave us Hopes that the Count *d'Auvergne* would put into our Hands. We leave the Biſhop of *Munſter* under a Jealouſie of his Allies, and will not endeavour to undeceive him, as to a Treaty between the *States*, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the Duke of *Zell*, according to the Order you gave us. The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* came to us in order to repreſent to us, the bad Condition of their Army in *Schonen*, half of them being ſwept away by Diſtempers; whereas that of the King of *Denmark* ſtrengthens itſelf daily. Their dejected Countenances, and the Terms in which they expreſs'd themſelves, different from what they have us'd hitherto, to intreat us to write to the King, and the Need they ſtand in of extraordinary Succours, to ſave *Straelſond* and *Stetin*, and keep their Poſſeſſions in *Schonen*; plainly ſhew us, the ill Poſture of their Affairs. We anſwer'd them, that we could aſſure them of the good Diſpoſition, in which the King was, to aſſiſt them in every thing, that lay in his Power: That for that purpoſe, he himſelf took the Field the 1ſt of *March*, at the Head of his Army, and made himſelf Maſter of one of the greateſt Places in *Flanders*: That afterwards he attack'd two others of the moſt conſiderable, which, without doubt, would draw off an Army from *Germany*, and make a powerful Diverſion: That we doubted not, but his Majeſty would give Orders, that the promiſed Subſidies ſhould be punctually paid; which was no ſmall matter, at a time when his Majeſty was charged with ſo great Expences; and that they ought to be perſuaded, that the Intereſt of the King of *Sweden* was as dear to him, as his own.

You

You may ſee, Sir, by our Anſwer to the King's Diſpatch of the 17th, what we have given ourſelves the Honour to write to his Majeſty, as to all the Orders which we have put in Execution.

We ſend you, Sir, the Copy of a Letter, which the Nuncio, Monſieur *Bevilaqua*, has written to us.

Monſieur *Chriſtin*, one of the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, earneſtly deſires to have a Paſport from the King, for his Wife, his Son, his Couſin, Monſieur *Keſmacher*, a Gentlewoman, a Waiting-woman, and four Domeſticks, on Foot or on Horſe-back, jointly or ſeparately, with their Equipage, to come from *Bruſſels* to this Town. We intreat you, Sir, to ſend it to us, when the ſame ſhall be diſpatched. We are moſt really, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *April* 2. 1677.

SIR,

WE ſent you by the laſt Poſt, the Letter which the Nuncio *Bevilaqua* wrote to us. One of us having ſince enquir'd of the Burgomaſter of the Town, what he deſign'd to do for the Satisfaction of the ſaid Nuncio, and what Treatment he would give him? he anſwer'd him, That a Biſhop had interceded with the Magiſtrates in the firſt place, to obtain a Chappel for the ſaid Nuncio, with the free Exerciſe of our Religion. 2dly, That the ſame Honours might be paid him, as to crown'd Heads. And

in the third place, that he might be ſecured from all manner of Inſult and Deriſion of the People; ſo as that he might continue here with the Decency due to his Character. They promis'd to grant him thoſe three Points, giving their Words only, to puniſh thoſe Perſons who fail'd in paying the Reſpect which is due to him: So that, Sir, the ſaid Numcio has nothing to do, but to repair hither forthwith; and we believe, that tho' he ſhould be more favourable to our Enemies, than to us, (which we ought not to ſuppoſe) yet he would not ceaſe to be uſeful to us; becauſe the Umbrage which he would give to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, would oblige them to carry themſelves a little more civilly than they do towards us; altho' we have often told them, on account of the clear Information they gave us, and demanded of us as to the Refuſal of the Viſit of Monſieur *Streatman*, That we had done no more therein, than what we thought becoming the Dignity of the King our Maſter. Nevertheleſs, they came this Morning, to preſs us to hear the reading of a *Latin* Writing, which, they told us, was put into their Hands by the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor; and that we would be pleas'd to give them our Anſwer alſo in Writing. But we told them, That we had nothing to add to our laſt Anſwer; and that, therefore, it was to no purpoſe to receive or grant a Writing after this manner.

Sir, they preſs us much leſs to give in our Anſwers to the firſt Propoſals of Peace, or to conſent that our Enemies ſhould deliver in their Anſwers to our Propoſals; and they plainly ſhew, by their Conduct, that they have nothing leſs at Heart, than the Advancement of the Negotiation. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *April* 6. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Deſire which Monſieur *Beverning* ſo publickly made appear, for promoting the Negotiation; and the Diſſatisfaction he diſcover'd at the Proceedure of his Allies, made us reſolve (after we had receiv'd the Letter with which your Majeſty honour'd us on the 29th *ult.*) to endeavour to find out, whether that Ambaſſador were in a Condition to make a ſeparate Treaty with us, and what Orders he had from his Maſters thereupon. For which end, *d'Avaux*, by a general Agreement, ſent to that Miniſter, and let him know, of what Conſequence it might be to his Maſters, to grant ſuch powerful Succours againſt *Sweden*. Foraſmuch as the Conqueſts of your Majeſty are the ſubject Matter of all Converſation, 'twas by that way we began ours. Monſieur *Beverning*, after he had talk'd thereof, with all the Admiration due to ſuch ſurprizing Actions, could not forbear ſaying, That he commiſerated the lamentable Condition to which thoſe great Progreſſes had reduced the Affairs of *Spain*, and the Difficulties which they would raiſe in the way of Peace. I told him, that your Majeſty would not, for all that, change the good Intention you had for the Tranquillity of *Chriſtendom*; and that, if the Affairs of the *Spaniards* grew worſe and worſe every day, it was an Evil which they had drawn upon themſelves: That they refus'd a Peace, at a time, when they might have had one

more advantageous than now: That, nevertheleſs, they did not take Warning by the Example of what had happen'd, and appear'd ſtill as averſe to a Treaty as ever: That they always put it off, one while thro' the Hopes they had from the Parliament of *England*; another while, in Expectation of the great Efforts the Empire would make, about the end of the Campagne; and continually, becauſe they are perſuaded, that the *States-General* will never abandon the Defence of the *Low-Countries*: And that unleſs the *States* undeceive themſelves in that Opinion, 'tis not to be expected, that *Spain* will enter upon any Negotiation. Monſieur *Beverning*, who is throughly convinced of all theſe Truths, alſo made no Difficulty to own them to me, and told me, with reſpect to the Parliament of *England*, That they were but too well perſuaded, they had not any thing to hope for from that Side: That the King of *Great-Britain*, who did the Prince of *Orange* the Honour to tell him every thing that was tranſacted, gave him to underſtand, that Monſieur *Van Beuning* was agreed therein ſome days ago, with my Lord *Berkley*. For, Sire, I ſhall do myſelf the Honour to tell your Majeſty in this, that my Lord *Berkley* has already told me, as a Secret, that ſince all the World, and, perhaps, even his Collegues, give great Hopes to your Majeſty's Enemies, from the Petitions preſented to the Parliament of *England*; he believ'd it conduc'd both for the Publick Good, for the forwarding of the Peace, and for your Majeſty's particular Service, to undeceive Monſieur *Beverning*: That, therefore, he went on purpoſe to find him out, and gave him to underſtand, that he ought not to rely upon any thing, of all that which appear'd to be motion'd againſt us, in the Parliament of *England*. This is a Conſequence of the Zeal and good Offices of my Lord

Berkley,

Berkley, of which we thought ourſelves obliged to give an Account to your Majeſty. Afterwards, Monſieur *Beverning* agreed, that all the Forces of the Empire join'd together, could not take ſo many Places from *France*, by the end of the Campagne, as your Majeſty had but juſt conquer'd, in the *Low-Countries*, within the ſpace of a Month; and that ſo they would always loſe more by the Continuation of the War, than they could gain. He alſo inform'd me, as to what I told him, about the little Care the *Spaniards* took to ſuccour *Flanders*, That by all the Orders which Don *John* had lately given, he perceiv'd, that *Spain* would make its utmoſt Efforts, on the ſide of *Sicily* and *Catalonia*; but as for *Flanders*, they did not concern themſelves, but relied altogether upon them. Whereupon, Monſieur *Beverning* being a little chagrin, could not forbear telling me, That their Intereſt, indeed, was, that the *Low-Countries* ſhould continue under the Obedience of the King of *Spain*; but that if the *Spaniards* did not uſe more ſtrenuous Endeavours, for that purpoſe, than they ſeem'd to be willing to do, the *States-General* could not ſupport them any longer; and added, with an Oath, That if that Remiſsneſs were continued, they would apply themſelves to the making of their Peace. It ſeem'd to me needleſs to enlarge any farther, upon a Matter of which he was ſo throughly perſuaded; and I thought I ought only to endeavour to know, whether he was in a Condition to accompliſh his good Intentions; and whether he had a Power to treat ſeparately with us. And altho' I might before have judged the contrary, by all his Diſcourſes; nevertheleſs, I did not forbear telling him, That your Majeſty had always expreſs'd moſt ſincere Intentions for Peace; that none of your Enemies were diſpos'd, as yet, to hearken thereto; that notwithſtanding

the Advantages your Majesty has gain'd, you had alter'd nothing (as I told him) of the Desire you had to give Tranquillity to all *Christendom*; and that, as soon as the said Monsieur *Beverning* should be in a Capacity to make us Proposals, we would always give ear to them with Delight: That I even believ'd, that since he is so well disposed, he could not do his Masters a greater piece of Service, than to inform them of your Majesty's Intentions, which are so advantageous for the Benefit of the *States*. He appear'd to me extremely concern'd, because he was unable to do what he earnestly desir'd, as to that Matter; and he told me three or four times, in express Terms, That he was vex'd he had not been at the *Hague* three Weeks ago, as he had determin'd: That his principal Design in that Journey, was to press the *States-General* to give him the necessary Instructions; but that the Pensionary *Fagel* had hinder'd him, with the Hopes he gave him every day, that his Papers were ready, and that he was about sending them to him: That nevertheless, he had them not yet, but should receive them, the next day after that on which he spoke to me, which is this very day. He told me, he would forthwith carry them to the Mediators, only to pay them due Respect; and that he would come in Person to treat with us.

He intimated to me, that the Emperor had hitherto expressly declared, that he was not inclined to Peace; that, nevertheless, Count *Kinsky*, whom he sent hither, was properly come (as we observ'd in his Full Powers) to agree about Means of attaining to Peace: But (says he) he is a Man incapable of Business; my *Valet de Chambre* knows more than he; he has frequent Recourse to the Precedent-Book of *Munster*, in order to put upon you abundance of little Tricks; but when I brought

brought him to serious and weighty Affairs, I never met with a Man so ignorant; nevertheless, the Bishop of *Gurk* does not think yet of setting out from *Vienna*. However, I believe, (added he) that his Majesty's great Progresses will make it appear to the Emperor, that he cannot reduce *France* so easily as he thought; and I doubt not but he is now more inclined to Peace. I took Occasion to tell him, That I was of Opinion, he ought not to flatter himself thereupon; that the Emperor had usurped so great an Authority during this War, that he would keep it as long as he could; that the Hopes of driving the *Swedes* out of the Empire, would be a greater Motive for him to make the Princes of *Germany* consent thereto; and that I did not apprehend, how the *States-General*, who have so great an Interest in maintaining the *Swedes* there, should contribute so much to their Expulsion. I was desirous to enter with him upon a Discussion of the Interest they had, not to suffer the Power of *Denmark* and *Brandenburg* to be augmented; and I laid down before him all the Arguments I could think of: But he told me, he had no Uneasiness on that side: That the *Danes* were beaten, and had preserved but one City in *Schonen*: That the *States* need only forbear sending them Ships, and the *Swedes* would soon retake all they had left. I thought fit to tell him, that it might happen thus with respect to *Schonen*; but that if the *Swedes* were once driven out of the Empire, they would not find Means to get in again: That in the mean time, the Elector of *Brandenburg* would come upon them, meaning the *Hollanders*; a powerful Enemy, whose Insincerity they were sensible of. He told me, 'twas true, it was their Interest that the *Swedes* should not be driven out of the Empire, but that they well knew the Means of re-establish-

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ing them; that, in a Word, they were Maſters of that Affair, which did not diſturb them; and that they were fully apprized which way to get clear. Would to God (ſays he) that I had alſo an abſolute Command of treating for the Intereſts of *Spain* and *Lorrain*; this would be an Affair ſoon accompliſh'd: But (continu'd he) the Change of the Miniſtry of *Spain*, is the Cauſe that the Plenipotentiaries have not hitherto any Orders, and know not what to take to. I reply'd to him, upon this laſt Article, without ſpeaking of *Lorrain*, (as if I had not heard him) That the little Inſtruction *Spain* has given hitherto to her Miniſters, was not to be imputed to her Diſorders, but to the Averſion that Crown has to make Peace; and that he well knew, that during all the Winter, there was no manner of Delay in the Negotiation, but what that Kingdom occaſion'd. He anſwer'd me, We ſhould take care of our own Buſineſs; but as we are engag'd with *Spain*, Endeavours muſt be uſed to get off with Honour. I had a large Scope to tell him, according to the Inſtructions your Majeſty gave us ſome Months ago, (but beſides, in purſuance of thoſe your Majeſty has ſent us ſince, by two or three Letters ſucceſſivply) That we ſhould forbear to explain ourſelves with reſpect to *Spain*, till ſhe was reduced to Propoſals more reaſonable, than thoſe made to us by the Mediators. I had another ſolid Reaſon to ſay nothing upon that Article; which was, becauſe Monſieur *Beverning* had ſufficiently diſcover'd to me, that the *Spaniards* had not opened themſelves to him touching their Deſign; and that therefore, it was through an unſeaſonable Eagerneſs, to clap up ſome Negotiation with him, in order to diſcover your Majeſty's Secret, without being able to penetrate into that of the *Spaniards*; and, conſequently, loſe all the Benefit we might

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reap hereafter, when we ſhould make appear your Majeſty's good Intentions, in a favourable Conjuncture.

Sire, this Diſcourſe of Monſieur *Beverning*, and what he declares to all thoſe who converſe with him, ſufficiently ſhews, that he is but too ſenſible of the Neceſſity the *States* are under to make Peace: That *Spain*, which well-knows that the *States* have no other Aim, but the Preſervation of *Flanders*, leaves the whole Care of it to them, and gives no reaſonable Inſtruction to her Miniſters, for fear leſt the *States* ſhould immediately accept of it; upon a Belief in which that Crown is, that the *United-Provinces* will never depart from her Intereſts, but upon the utmoſt Extremity. However, 'tis to be believ'd, that the *Hollanders* will be weary of ſo great a Charge, in maintaining a War which is ſo burdenſome to them, and which can never, in the leaſt, turn to their Advantage; if the Prince of *Orange*, who has his particular Intereſts, did not ſtill retain in Fear, all thoſe who would take Reſolutions agreeable to the Poſture of Affairs.

We hope, nevertheleſs, Sire, that the Reduction of *Cambray*, which we look upon as certain, becauſe your Majeſty has attempted it, will preſs the *States-General* to cauſe the *Spaniards* to explain themſelves ſomewhat better than they have hitherto done. Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, in ſpeaking to one of us on the Subject of the firſt Propoſals of Peace, ſaid, We had acted very prudently, in not inſerting therein any Inſtance for the Enlargement of Prince *William* of *Furſtemberg*, becauſe it would have infallibly renew'd great Bickerings between us and the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and would extremely retard the Peace; whereas, the Mediators have, at preſent, all the reaſon in the World to hope, by the Letters of Monſ. *Sheldon*,

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that ſome Medium may be ſpeedily found out, in that Affair, to ſatisfy your Majeſty and Prince *William*. Sir *Lionel Jenkins* was preſs'd to declare, Whether that Writing by way of Sequeſtration, which was deſir'd with ſo much Juſtice, were granted? And he anſwer'd, There was, indeed, no Hope of obtaining it; but that Prince *William* might perhaps be left upon his Parole, in ſome good Town, where there was all manner of Conveniency, with an Aſſurance of an entire Liberty, ſo ſoon as the Peace ſhould be concluded: That, therefore, he believ'd, that the Benefit of the Peace, and the Regard your Majeſty has to the King of *Great-Britain*, ought to hinder us from making any Inſtance for the Enlargement of the ſaid Prince, or, at leaſt, defer it, till his *Britannick* Majeſty has more Hopes of obtaining from the Emperor the juſt Satisfaction he demands.

We thought ourſelves obliged to declare ſomewhat of this Conference to Monſieur *Duker*, which caus'd a Thought to come into his Head, which he communicated to us. It was, Sire, That he, without our Participation, and without the Interceſſion of the Mediators, ſhould make Application directly to Monſieur *Straatman*, who is an intimate Friend of Pr. *William*; and that he ſhould propoſe to him, that the Duke of *Newburg* ſhould uſe his Intereſt with the Emperor, ſo as that his Imperial Majeſty might deliver up Prince *William* into his Hands: That after this manner, the Emperor would, in ſome meaſure, ſave his Honour; ſince he did not deliver up the ſaid Prince *William*, upon account of *France*, which would have no Knowledge at all of that Negotiation: That he would deliver him up into the Hands of a Prince, who, on the contrary, was engag'd in a War againſt your Majeſty; and that, by that Means, he would deliver him up at the Inſtances

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of the King of *Great-Britain*, which it was difficult for him to withstand: That it was even very natural, that Prince *William* should be put into the Hands of the Duke of *Newburg*, because he was his near Kinsman, and his particular Vassal. We know not, whether in reality, this Thought proceeded lately from Monsieur *Duker*, or whether it was not a Design form'd some time ago: But we made answer to him, That we had so positive Orders, to press for the Liberty of Prince *William*, that we could not consent, that another Negotiation should be set on foot, in which it would appear Your Majesty has no Concern, without first giving you an Account thereof: That we would do it by this Post; and that Your Majesty would see what was expediept to be done upon this Occasion: That the Bishop of *Strasburg* might discourse to Your Majesty about it; and that when we have receiv'd Orders thereupon, we would all act in concert pursuant to them.

Sire, we have put our five Full-Powers into the Hands of the Mediators, who are this Day or to morrow to exchange them for those of the Emperor, and the *States*. We are, with a most profound Respect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.

Dated *April* 6. 1677.

SIR,

IT was not without reason, that we were persuaded, that the *States-General* would not enter upon Business; because they had no Power to treat

treat for the *Spaniards*, for whom they would very willingly ſtipulate ſome thing, that tends to their Advantage; We judg'd it by the Diſcourſe of Monſieur *Beverning*, and we have been more expreſly inform'd of it, by Monſieur *Haeren* (who in a Conference we had with him, agreed with us) That hitherto the *Spaniards* had made no other Overture of Peace to them, than that which they gave us in their Propoſals: He agrees, that the ſame is Chimerical, and unwarrantable; but he hopes, that perhaps new Propoſals will be ſpeedily made on their part, which apparently the *States* are endeavouring to bring about. This makes us judge, That till now, the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* durſt not make any mention of it to us; ſince they being ignorant of the Intentions of *Spain*, neither they nor any body elſe can enter into a Negotiation for that Crown.

Sir, we ſhall make uſe of what you told us, with regard to *Sweden*, and we can aſſure you, That their Ambaſſadors are already agreed, that it is impoſſible for the King to ſend any Succours of Men or Ships.

If a Propoſal be made to us, That we would permit the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, to diſpatch a Courier every Fortnight to *Madrid*, we ſhall make the Anſwer you preſcrib'd us: They very often inſinuate Expedients to us thereupon; but foraſmuch as all thoſe things have been already repeated, we ſhall not trouble you therewith, unleſs the Mediators or the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* demand it in Form, in which caſe we will give you an exact Account thereof.

Sir, you have ſeen by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, after what manner Monſieur *Beverning* ſpeaks of Count *Kinsky*. Neither is he better ſatisfy'd with Monſieur *Straatman*, with reſpect to the firſt Ceremonies;

remonies; for as to the reſt, he is a very able Perſon. Monſieur *Beverning* has cenſur'd his Conduct, upon occaſion of the firſt Viſit: He told one of us, who diſcours'd with him about it, and inform'd him thereof, That he entirely blam'd his Procedure, and added, that all the Faults committed here by two or three Ambaſſadors, ſpeaking alſo of that of *Denmark*, would even fill a whole Volume: We have given that Miniſter the Paſport which the King granted to Monſieur *Van Beuning*, for one of his Relations. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *April* 8. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*. Before I anſwer your Diſpatches of the 26th and 30th ult. I ſhall inform you of a private Journey which Monſieur *Lillienroth* made to Me. He arriv'd three Days ago in this Camp, and declar'd the occaſion of it to Monſieur *de Pomponne*. He told him, That the Penſionaries *Fagel* and *Beverning* declar'd themſelves a while ago, (the former to him at the *Hague*, and the other to Monſieur *Olivenkrants* at *Nimeguen*) in order to impart to them the Deſign of the Prince of *Orange*, to agree with Me, either upon the Conditions of a general Peace, or a private Accommodation with *Holland*: That Monſieur *Olivenkrants*, being unwilling to undertake that Negotiation, he mov'd them to give Notice of it to Count *Oxenſtiern*; That thoſe two Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* had us'd all their Efforts with Monſieur *Beverning*, to diſpoſe him

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to make to you the ſame diſcovery of the Thoughts of the Prince of *Orange*, and thoſe of the *States*: That they were never able to obtain it, notwithſtanding their Inſtances were very preſſing: That at length, they thought themſelves oblig'd to inform Me, by Monſieur *Lillienrooth*, of all the Overtures which were made them. They are in ſubſtance, that the Deſign of the *States* was to endeavour for a general Peace, and to begin by making Contracts with Me in private; That in caſe we agreed, they would propoſe them to *Spain*; and that to the end they might receive no Alteration, they would induce all their Allies to agree upon a Ceſſation of Arms for two Months; and that if in that time, *Spain* would not accept of the Conditions, they would then proceed to a private Treaty for themſelves alone.

The Foundation which they propoſe for a general Peace, is the Eſtabliſhment of that Barrier, which they think ought always to be a Protection for their Country; and for that end, they demand that I ſhould deliver up into the Hands of the *Spaniards*, the Places of *Charleroy*, *Namur*, *Ath*, *Audenarde* and *Courtray*: In exchange, they only offer Me, *Aire* and *St. Omers*; upon condition, nevertheleſs, that in order to equal the Places which I ſhould reſign, they would give Me an Equivalent elſewhere; yet without naming to Me, either the Places or the Provinces, in which they ſhould be yielded to Me: They added to thoſe Propoſals, the Reſtitution of *Lorrain*, and the Abandoning of *Meſſina*, which ſhould be only ſecur'd by an Amneſty for its Inhabitants.

As to the Intereſt of *Holland*, they ſeem to make no Difficulty, that *Maeſtricht* ſhould be deliver'd up, and that I may enter upon ſome Accommodation for Trade: They alledge for that end, that this Overture has been already made to

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the Prince of *Orange*, and I know by that means that they have had ſome Notice of what was imparted to the Sieur *Peſters*.

This is the Subſtance of the Schemes, with which Monſieur *Lillienrooth* was charg'd: He added, that Monſieur *Beverning* deſir'd an extraordinary Secrecy, and ſo as they might be at liberty to diſown the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, if ever their Allies ſhould come to the Knowledge of it.

Forasmuch as theſe Propoſals were not very ſuitable to the preſent Poſture of Affairs, I did not judge it expedient to enter into any Engagement: He alſo expreſs'd, of his own accord, much Readineſs to ſhew Me his Commiſſion; but ſince he deſir'd a profound Secrecy, I told him the Audience I ſhould give him might make too great Noiſe: That I look'd upon it more proper, that he ſhould return to *Nimeguen*, and declare to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, and Monſieur *Beverning*, That I ſhould always retain a ſincere and real Deſire for the general Peace; and that I would willingly contribute thereto, when they ſhould propoſe to Me more reaſonable Conditions. He agreed, that thoſe with which he was charg'd, were too extravagant; and there would be no great Difficulty to make him ſenſible, that they would make Me loſe too unjuſtly a conſiderable Part of the Benefit I reap from the Treaties of the *Pyrenees*, and *Aix-la-Chapelle*, and the Conquests I have made in this War. He would alſo have conſider'd, as the moſt important Article of his Negotiation, the Knowledge which may be drawn from thence, of the Diſpoſition of the *States* for a ſeparate Peace. I gave Orders, That it ſhould be repreſented to him, upon this Point, that I would willingly entertain this Thought, when the *States* ſhould be diſpos'd to do it; but I caus'd him to be undeceiv'd, as to the Belief in

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which he was, That the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht* could either be made in a general Treaty of Peace, or at leaſt without receiving an Equivalent elſewhere. My Intention in ſpeaking to him after this manner, was, that the Prince of *Orange* ſhould take Notice, That when I offer'd that Place to him, by the Sieur *Peſters*, it was only upon Account of a particular Accommodation, and not to deliver it up without Advantage, in a general Treaty with *Spain*.

I was willing you ſhould be inform'd of theſe Particulars, not that I believe it requiſite for you, to declare any of them to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, in caſe they keep the ſame Secrecy with you, as they have caus'd to be ſo particularly deſir'd of Me; But becauſe it is Matter of Importance, that you ſhould be inform'd of every thing, relating to the Negotiation, which I have committed to your Charge.

Foraſmuch as theſe Propoſals are too unreaſonable, to deſerve any Diſcuſſion, I was not willing, that Monſieur *Lillienroath* ſhould be charg'd with any other Anſwer, than that which I gave him in very general Terms, *viz.* That my Diſpoſitions would be always very ſincere, as well for the general Peace, as for a ſeparate Accommodation with the *States*, whenever they ſhould offer Me reaſonable Conditions. For the reſt, I declar'd how far I approv'd of the Zeal of the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, for a Negotiation, equally conducive to the Intereſt of their Maſter and mine, and that I ſhould be always very glad to hear of the Truſt that Monſieur *Beverning* repoſes in them.

The principal Subject of your two Diſpatches, the Receipt whereof I have charg'd Myſelf with, relates to the Conduct you obſerv'd in refuſing the Viſit of Monſieur *Straaman*, and that which you are to uſe for the future, on the like Occaſions:

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As to the firſt, you have the more Reaſon to complain of him, in regard that having ſent to him in the Morning, he put you off till the Afternoon, under Colour that he was to treat with the Miniſter of *Cologn*, and that he ſpent that time in ſeeing the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* and *Denmark* before you. This Affectation of receiving other Viſits before yours, under a feigned Pretence of Buſineſs, gave you a very lawful Reaſon not to viſit him, and not to wait to ſignifie to him your Reſentment, till he ſhould return to your Houſes.

As to the Method you ought to obſerve upon the like Occaſions, which may offer hereafter; my Intention is ſtill, That as far as lies in your Power, you ſhould prevent the Ambaſſadors who are at *Nimeguen*, by firſt cauſing a Demand of a Viſit to be made of him who is newly arriv'd: What you have done, as to Monſieur *Straatman*, has ſufficiently made appear to the whole Aſſembly, the Juſtice of your Claims. So that if other Ambaſſadors go before you, and the matter be known to you; you may (after the manner you have propos'd) in viſiting the Ambaſſador, explain yourſelves, That you clearly perceive that he has notified his Arrival to others, before he caus'd Notice thereof to be given to you; ſince he gave them time to viſit him firſt. But if the Viſit of another Ambaſſador ſhould be made in ſuch manner before yours, and you are not inform'd thereof; then you ſhould (as you did to Monſieur *Straatman*) make uſe of the Expedient of refuſing that which he would give you.

Notwithſtanding the Combination which appears among the Kings, as well my Enemies as Allies, to confound by an Equality, the general Preference which is due to Me; my Intention is, that you ſhould maintain it in theſe ſort of Ceremonies; and that the whole Aſſembly may take

Notice, that you will neither receive nor pay any Visits, but when they are agreeable to the Rank which you ought so justly to hold. For the rest, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his sacred Protection.

Written from the Camp before Cambray, *the* 8*th Day of* April, 1677.

LETTER
From Monsieur de Pomponne *to the Ambassadors.*
Dated *April* 8. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Dispatch fully answers your last. I have since receiv'd, and am just come from reading to His Majesty, that which you was pleas'd to write to me, of the 2d instant: He is very glad to see, that the Burgomasters of *Nimeguen* are ready to give the Nuncio his due, and is thorowly satisfy'd to perceive, that the same is an Effect of your Care: His Majesty is likewise very well pleas'd, that you forbore to receive the *Latin* Writing, from the Ambassadors of the Emperor, which was brought you by the Mediators, and that you refus'd to give any Answer thereto. His Majesty's Precedency is too well establish'd, to admit of any Dispute, and does not stand in need of being supported by any new Deeds. 'Tis sufficient, that the whole City of *Nimeguen* cannot be ignorant of the Reason why you refus'd the Visit of the Emperor's Ambassadors, and that that Example prepares the Ministers of other Princes, either to give you what is your due, or not to expect from you any Civilities of this sort.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, what you ſee in His Majeſty's Diſpatch, concerning Monſieur *Lillieroth*'s Journey, will diſcover to you, that Monſieur *Beverning* did not act ſincerely, when he declar'd to you, That he was to enter privately into a Treaty with you, about the Conditions of Peace: Nevertheleſs, you have little reaſon to complain of him; and ſince he had no other Propoſals to make, than thoſe which he entruſted with the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, you would reap little Advantage from that Overture. Foraſmuch as they are willing the Matter ſhould be kept ſecret, you need not declare (if you pleaſe) to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, that you know any thing of it: Nothing has been yet reported to His Majeſty, which may induce him to judge, that his Enemies are endeavouring to get the Place of the Conferences chang'd, or that they have at leaſt any hopes of effecting it.

As to the Inſtances which the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have made to you, for an extraordinary Aſſiſtance for the King their Maſter; you may decline it, either by taking no Notice of it at all, or by returning an Anſwer after the manner as you have done.

I have annex'd hereto the Paſport, which you deſir'd. I am now to tell you of the Siege, the Particulars whereof I ſhall not repeat to you; I mean thoſe which are carefully ſent you every Day. The Attacks are advanc'd very near the Counterſcarp: His Majeſty has three Batteries in a Readineſs, and that of the Bombs begins to play this Day: There appears little Valour in the Enemy, conſidering ſo ſtrong a Garriſon as they have in the Citadel; and the light Sallies, which they attempted laſt Night and this, have produc'd no Effect.

By News the King has receiv'd from *St. Omers*, the Duke of *Orleans* was to have made an Attack,

Yesterday in the Evening, upon that part of the Suburbs which is call'd *Haut-Pont* and *Fort de Vaches*; The being Master of both those Places secures the taking of the Town in such a manner, as that if it succeeds, as there is reason to expect it will, the Duke will be in a much better Condition to march to meet the Prince of *Orange*, who is with his Army in the Neighbourhood of *Ypres*, and who threatens to attempt the Relief of that Place. We are very quiet here at this time, chiefly since the King has reinforc'd the Army of the Duke of *Orleans*, with part of his Troops, that were unnecessary for him in the Siege of the Citadel only. Gentlemen, I most humbly kiss your Hands, and am with all possible Sincerity, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Tourmont.

Dated *April* 9. 1677.

SIR,

THIS is only to desire you, to inform Monsieur *de Pomponne*, That we have no Business this Day, to give ourselves the Honour to write to the King, nor to him; and that he will receive no Letters from us by this Post. We are, Sir, your most affectionate Servants.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *April* 13. 1677.

SIR,

THE laſt Poſt brought us no Letters, either from the King or you; and ſo long as it ſhall pleaſe the Allies and the Mediators, to continue in that profound Silence, which they have kept ſince the Exchange of the firſt Propoſals; we ſhall have no Difficulty, which deſerves to interrupt His Majeſty's Care and Buſineſs one Moment. The Employment which he gives his Enemies, by the important Conqueſts he continues to make, ought to preſs them to talk to us after a more reaſonable manner than they have done.

Monſieur *Beverning* ſeems to be vex'd, becauſe he has not receiv'd the Inſtructions which he ſaid he expected from his Maſters, to promote the Negotiations, and he ſet out Yeſterday for the *Hague*, to fetch them; or elſe to go home, and employ himſelf about his own private Affairs. So that, Sir, we are now fallen into the ſame languiſhing Condition, with which we were a long while afflicted; but 'tis to be hoped, that His Majeſty's glorious Achievements will find us Buſineſs before the Campagne is over. We are in the mean time oblig'd to you, Sir, for the Notice you caus'd to be given, of the Succeſs of His Majeſty's Arms, and we are entirely with Affection at your Service.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the Writing of our Letter, the Mediators brought us two, whereof we ſend you the Copies, which were put into their Hands, on the part of Prince *Charles*, to prove that the Dukes of *Lorrain* have a Right of ſending Ambaſſadors into *France*; and they repeated to us, what they had told us ſeveral times before, That that Prince being depriv'd of all his Archives, could not produce more authentick Proofs of the Right he claims. We told them, That the Records in favour of that Right, conſiſting only of Letters of Credence, and Full-Powers, are to be found rather in the Hands of thoſe who have been honour'd with the Character of Ambaſſadors, and their Heirs, than in the Chancery of any Princes: And that foraſmuch as it was certain, that in all the Aſſemblies, which have been held for the Negotiations of Peace, for above thirty Years, there never was any Miniſter of *Lorrain*, who was acknowledg'd there, in Quality of Ambaſſador; therefore Prince *Charles* could not obtain it for his Miniſter, till he had given clearer and more convincing Proofs of his Right, than thoſe two Copies; if the King is willing, that we ſhould explain ourſelves otherwiſe on that Affair, be pleas'd, Sir, to let us know it.

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.
Dated *April* 15. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; Your Diſpatch of the 6th inſtant, gave Me an Account chiefly of the Diſcourſe, which one of you had with Monſieur *Beverning*. Altho' he told you the Deſire of the *States* for Peace, and the Concern he was under, becauſe they delay'd to ſend him the Inſtructions, in order to treat ſeparately with you, in caſe that *Spain* ſhould bring any Obſtruction; nevertheleſs, it appears, that he did not ſpeak to you, with an entire Sincerity: You ſaw by my laſt Diſpatch, that he conceal'd from you, what he told the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*; and the Journey which Monſieur *Lillieroth* was to make to Me; but foraſmuch as the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have deſir'd, that this Negotiation may be kept ſecret, you may let him alone in the belief, that you are ignorant of it. I would have you endeavour to keep up the Deſire, which Monſieur *Beverning* has ſhewn, of treating ſeparately for his Maſters: You ought to do it the rather, in regard that the Condition in which the Defeat of the Prince of *Orange* may put *Spain*, in the *Low Countries*, is more capable of making the *States* weary of a deſtructive War, and deſirous to provide for their Security, of their own accord: Therefore, as far as it lies in your Power, you are to continue to repreſent to the ſaid Sieur *Beverning*, the favourable Diſpoſitions which I have for his Maſters, and even for the Prince of *Orange*, when he ſhall be inclin'd to make a ſeparate Agreement with Me.

Forasmuch as the Victory my Brother has gain'd, has made a very great Noise at *Nimeguen*, and it will be augmented by the taking of *Cambray* and *St. Omers* next; whatsoever Effect it may cause in the Minds of my Enemies, my Intention is not, that the same should occasion any Alteration in your Conduct. After the same manner as you have always declar'd my sincere Intention for Peace, I desire you would still do it; and that it may appear to the whole Assembly, that notwithstanding the prosperous Successes, which have attended my Arms, in a War which was declar'd against Me by *Spain*, they make no Change in the Dispositions I always had, to procure the Tranquillity of *Europe*.

I have seen the Proposal made to you by Monsieur *Duker*, That he should use Endeavours himself, with Monsieur *Straatman*, to obtain that Prince *William* may be deliver'd up, into the Hands of the Duke of *Newburg*: Forasmuch as he will act alone, in this Negotiation, which will not be contrary to the Declaration I made, and which you may renew in my Name, in favour of the Prince; I should be very glad to see his Imprisonment commuted, after such a gentle manner. For the rest, I pray God, to take you, my Cousin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Messieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his sacred Protections.

Written from the Camp before Cambray, *the* 15*th of* April, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.
Dated *April* 16. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Diſpatch with which Your Majeſty was pleas'd to honour us, of the 8th inſtant, ſhews us, That the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have done us Juſtice, when they did not think us capable of taking upon ourſelves, to make Propoſals of Peace to Your Majeſty, ſo unſuitable to the proſperous State of your Affairs, as were thoſe which were brought you by Monſieur *Lillieroth*. Foraſmuch as they made uſe of a great deal of Artifice, to conceal that Journey, colouring alſo the Abſence of that Envoy, with a feigned Diſſatisfaction they had conceiv'd againſt him; there is no Probability that they will acquaint us with the real Occaſion of it, and we ſhall alſo take Care not to tell them that we are inform'd thereof. There are grounds to hope, That the prodigious Conqueſts, which Your Majeſty will ſhortly accompliſh, will force the Enemies to talk more reaſonably than they have hitherto done; and the good News which we have receiv'd at this very inſtant, of the full and entire Victory gain'd over the Prince of *Orange*, by Your Majeſty's Arms, ought to make them thoroughly ſenſible, That there is no Safety for 'em, but in a ſpeedy Concluſion of a Peace, upon ſuch Conditions as you ſhall be pleas'd to grant them. We doubt not, but that the great Aſſembly, which is now held at *Weſel*, is ſomewhat confounded, by this beginning of the Campagne: For ſo many ſpecious and long Conferences, do not uſually produce Advantages, like

to thoſe, which redound to *France*, by the Expedition with which Your Majeſty knows how to give and cauſe your Orders to be executed. This Defeat of one of their Armies, may well induce them to take a Reſolution, to attack us rather by new Propoſals of Peace, than again to match their Forces with thoſe of Your Majeſty.

The Difficulty which the Princes of *Brunſwick* and *Luxenburg* make, of ſending Miniſters hither, without the Quality of Ambaſſadors, raiſes a very great One, as to the manner of treating about their Intereſts. The Mediators to put an end to it, came to propoſe to us three Days ago, to conſent that they ſhould read to us the Pretenſions of thoſe Miniſters, which Monſieur *Muller*, who is to be their Miniſter in this Aſſembly, (if he can be receiv'd here in Quality of Ambaſſador) ſent to the ſaid Mediators; deſiring them by Letter, to communicate to us the Demands of his Maſters, to which he annex'd his Power. We told them, it was our Buſineſs, to treat with all Ambaſſadors and Miniſters, furniſh'd with a ſufficient Power: That therefore we could not receive the Propoſals of the ſaid Princes, till ſome Perſon was here, on their part, legally authoriz'd to treat about them; and that we did not believe, That they the Mediators would act as Solicitors or Miniſters of the ſaid Princes, whom it behov'd either to ſend ſuch hither, with the ſame Quality as they had at *Munſter*, or to give a Power to thoſe of their Allies, who are diſpos'd to act for them. We do not doubt, but that they will ſtill make us more and different Inſtances, upon that ſubject; and if Your Majeſty judges it proper, that we ſhould make uſe of any other Expedient more advantageous to your Service, than the uſual Method, which we have kept to till now; may it pleaſe you

to

to notifie it to us. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *April* 16. 1677.

SIR,

WE receiv'd this Day by the Courier, whom Monſieur *de Louvois* ſent to us, ſo much good News of the Succeſs of the King's Arms, both before *Cambray*, and over the Prince of *Orange*, near *St. Omers*; that we doubt not but His Majeſty is by this time in Poſſeſſion of thoſe two Towns, and that his Enemies will ſpeedily make us Propoſals of Peace, much more reaſonable than thoſe which Monſieur *Lillieroth* communicated to us. We ſhall wait for them very patiently, ſo long as it pleaſes the Almighty to bleſs the King's good Intentions, with the like proſperous Succeſſes; and if the Allies take Pleaſure in putting off from us the Satisfaction of contributing by our Care, to the Tranquillity of *Chriſtendom*; His Majeſty revenges us of them too well, for us to continue our Reſentment of it: Therefore we can aſſure you, That at preſent, nothing but Joy fills our Hearts, and that all we are able to do this Day, is to diſcourſe about the Wonders which we have heard, and the Happineſs we enjoy of living in ſo admirable a Reign. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *April* 23. 1677.

SIRE,

WE receiv'd the Diſpatch which Your Majeſty did us the Honour to write to us, of the 15th inſtant, and we heard afterwards, by that of Monſieur *de Pompone*, dated the 17th, of the taking of the Citadel of *Cambray*: We cannot ſufficiently expreſs to you, Sire, the extreme Joy with which we entertain the good Succeſſes, that attend Your Majeſty's Arms in all their Enterprizes.

Monſieur *Beverning* is return'd from his Country-Houſe: If he makes any Propoſal to us, we ſhall act even as Your Majeſty order'd us, without deviating from the Conduct, which we have hitherto obſerved towards him.

As to what relates to the Affair of Prince *William*, of *Furſtenberg*; we ſhall leave to Monſieur *Dyck*, the Care of treating with Monſieur *Straatman*, for the more gentle Commutation of the Impriſonment of that Prince; and ſhall give Your Majeſty an Account of the Anſwers, which ſhall be return'd to him on that Affair: We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors
Dated *April* 24. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d' Avaux*; The only thing which obliges Me to inform you of my Intentions, as to your Letter of the 16th inſtant, is the Propoſal made by the Mediators, That they might communicate to you, the Claim of the Princes of *Lunenburg*: I have nothing to deſire more than the Anſwer you made them: You may continue to inſiſt (even as you declar'd to them) that your Orders are only to treat with the Miniſters of the Princes, who are furniſh'd with Full-Powers; and that you expect thoſe Princes ſhould have ſuch at *Nimeguen*, with the ſame Quality as they had at *Munſter*. You may add (even as you declar'd) that if they pleaſe, they may empower their Allies to treat for them; and laſtly, that I have made no Anſwer as to that Affair.

I perceiv'd in your particular Letter of the 19th, that the Ambaſſadors of *England* have ſupported the Pretenſion of Prince *Charles*, That his Miniſters may aſſume the Character of Ambaſſadors, by the Copies of two Letters, which he pretends to have been written upon Account of the Embaſſy of the Sieur *de Ville*, in 1627. without entring upon a new Diſcuſſion of the Right he lays Claim to. You may tell the Mediators, That Artifices of this nature which are very rude Draughts, do not appear to you ſufficient to eſtabliſh the like Privilege; and by that means, you will oblige them to communicate the Originals to you; nevertheleſs, without your propoſing to them to do it, becauſe,

whatſoever Conſequences this Negotiation may have, it is not neceſſary to preſs it.

You will ſee, by the Copy which I have ſent you of a Letter that I thought convenient to write to the King of *England*, That I am willing to give a publick Teſtimony, that all the proſperous Succeſſes with which my Arms have been lately attended, are ſo far from abating my Deſire of Peace, that they augment the facile Methods I have endeavour'd to lay down hitherto for that Purpoſe. Foraſmuch as the Truce would be the firſt Step to attain thereto, and that it will take away from my Enemies, the Apprehenſion which they affect ſo much to diſcover, that I would ſpeedily complete the entire Conqueſt of the *Low-Countries*; I thought Myſelf oblig'd to explain Myſelf to the King of *Great-Britain*, as a Mediator, about a Method capable of giving all the neceſſary time, to make it ſucceed: But foraſmuch as I cannot hearken to any Treaty of Truce or Peace, without the Participation of the King of *Sweden*, you may perceive the Precaution I have taken not to engage Myſelf in any thing, without his Conſent, and that I leave it to the King of *England*, to know what are his Sentiments. This is what you ſhould communicate to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, by giving them a Copy of my Letter to the King of *England*, which I am very deſirous to make publick, and which you will be glad to put alſo into the Hands of the Miniſters, who are at *Nimeguen*. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſeurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Calais, *the* 24*th of* April, 1677.

LET-

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *April* 24. 1677.

Gentlemen,

HAving nothing to add to the Diſpatch which the King wrote to you, I ſhall only inform you of the glorious Conſequence of his Majeſty's Campagne. His Troops enter'd the Citadel of *Cambray* on *Eaſter-day*, at the ſame time that the *Spaniſh* Garriſon, ſtill conſiſting of above 2000 Men, march'd out. The Effects of the Mines, Cannon and Bombs, were ſuch, that they could not hold out any longer. In the mean while, the Duke of *Orleans* continu'd the Siege of *St. Omers*; and altho' the Counterſcarp was not yet taken, yet the ſmall Hopes of Relief oblig'd the Garriſon to capitulate, and his Majeſty's Forces enter'd the Town yeſterday. Forasmuch as the Troops have been very much fatigued in theſe three Sieges, and in the Battle, his Majeſty determin'd to ſend his whole Army into Quarters of Refreſhment, till the Graſs being grown, they ſhall have an Opportunity to take the Field again. His Majeſty has taken a Reſolution to viſit, during this Interval, the greateſt part of his Conqueſts. He ſet out from the Camp at *Cambray*, the 20th inſtant, and lay at *Douay*; the next day, at *Bethune*; the day following, he din'd at *Aire*, and encamp'd at *Terouenne*; yeſterday he proceeded to *Ardres*, and lay in that Town: He ſtays there this day, and is to be to-morrow at *Dunkirk*;

from

from whence he will afterwards continue to viſit his other Places. The Duke of *Orleans* came to his Majeſty at *Terouenne*, who receiv'd him with all the Marks of Friendſhip, and Expreſſions of Joy, upon account of the Glory he had acquir'd in ſo famous a Victory.

Gentlemen, I forgot to tell you, that not having ſent to Monſieur *Courtin* the Propoſals you put into the Hands of the Mediators, touching his Majeſty's Conditions for a Peace; nor thoſe which they deliver'd to you, on the part of the Allies; becauſe I thought he would have receiv'd them from you: He anſwer'd me, that he had them not; altho' they were in the Hands of all the foreign Miniſters, who reſided at *London*, to whom they were ſent from *Nimeguen*. His Majeſty, who has ſeen this Diſpatch, commanded me to notify to you, That he judg'd it expedient for his Service, that you ſhould keep up a Correſpondence with him, as to theſe ſorts of Affairs, which it was requiſite he ſhould know, as being more eſpecially in a Court which has ſo great an Intereſt in the Peace. I am, Gentlemen, with Eſteem, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *April* 27. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing this Poſt that is worthy to be tranſmitted to you. Foraſmuch as we had *Eaſter* eight days later in this Country, we are this day celebrating the laſt Feſtival thereof; So that the Mediators, either by reaſon of the Solemnity of the Holidays, or on account of waiting till Don *Pedro Ronquillo* had his Full-Power, or till the Ambaſſador of *Denmark* was come back from the Conference of *Weſel*, from whence he returned only the day before yeſterday, have not yet made the Exchange of our Full Powers, which we had put into their Hands. 'Tis alſo true, Sir, that this Step is of no great Conſequence, till our Enemies ſhall be willing to ſet about the Work of Peace in good Earneſt.

Neither, Sir, have we receiv'd any Letter this Poſt; and we believe you were inform'd as ſoon as we, that the laſt Courier, who was going to *Liege*, was robb'd, and his Mail taken by a Party of *Spaniards*. Therefore, Sir, if there be any Matter of Conſequence therein, we intreat you to ſend us a Duplicate. The Letter we were to receive, is that which you did us the Honour to write, after that of the 17th inſtant, which is the laſt whereto we return'd an Anſwer. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, my Lord *Berkley* brought us an Extract of the Articles of the Treaty of Commerce in 1662, after the manner, as we preſume, that the *States* deſire the ſaid Treaty ſhould be formed. Sir, we have no Time either to get it tranſcribed to ſend to you, nor even to read it, to give his Majeſty an Account thereof; but we ſhall do both by the firſt Poſt.

My Lord *Berkley* told us, that Monſieur *Beverning* had aſſur'd him, that he would make a Pretence, on account of this Treaty, to come to ſee us, and enter ſeriouſly upon Buſineſs with us. We wiſh, Sir, that he would more punctually keep his Word this time, than he has done for ten or twelve times, that he has promis'd us; but we do not believe that a Treaty of Commerce, which generally is not regulated till after the Concluſion of a Peace, can be an Introduction to it. And we have more reaſon to fear, leſt by that Means he ſhould find a ſpecious Pretence to ſpin out the Conferences with us till the end of the Campagne, when they always expect to reap great Advantages from the Forces of *Germany*.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *April* 30. 1677.

SIRE,

WE give ourſelves the Honour to ſend your Majeſty the Articles touching Commerce, which the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* have communicated to us, by the Hands of the Mediators. We have ſet down in the Margin, all the Alterations which they deſire to be made in the Treaty of 1662. However, we did not think fit to make any Anſwer; and we waited till the Ambaſſadors of the *States* came to ſee us, accordingly as they had promis'd to do, in order to give us a clear Information of their own Intentions, and thoſe of their Maſters.

Sire, this Morning they deſir'd an Audience of us, and came to expreſs to us the Joy of the *States-General*, for having obſerved in our firſt Propoſals, that your Majeſty was diſpoſed to reſtore them your former Amity; their Concern for having loſt it; and their Deſire, at the ſame time, to ſeek out all Methods to recover the ſame, and to merit the Honour of your Favours.

Sire, we ſhall not repeat to your Majeſty, all that was diſcours'd on either ſide, which does not appear to us neceſſary to be reported to you. We ſhall, therefore, only confine ourſelves to what we think moſt ſubſtantial.

In the firſt place, with regard to the Articles of the Treaty of Commerce, Monſieur *Beverning* agreed,

agreed, that this was a Propoſal to be join'd to the firſt; and that we ought not to look upon it as a general Plan, in order to enter upon the Negotiations. He alſo agreed, that a general Peace, between all the Parties, who are at preſent in War, was a thing, as it were, impracticable; and that we muſt proceed thereto Step by Step; which gave us occaſion to acquaint him with our Deſign, which was, to know of him, what was his preſent Intention and View; becauſe we were to anſwer him after a different manner, if he ask'd for the *States-General* alone, or treated for all their Allies. After much ambiguous Diſcourſe, he, at laſt, told us, That he could not depart from the Intereſt of the *Spaniards*; and that he believ'd, Matters might be eaſily accommodated, if it were once known, what your Majeſty would do for *Flanders*, and for *Lorrain*: Foraſmuch as we always limited ourſelves to ſay, That the Propoſals of the *Spaniards* were ſo unreaſonable, that we could not ſo much as enter upon Buſineſs with them; he told us, That they were, indeed, very Extravagant, but that he deſir'd to know, whether we were willing, that they, the *Hollanders*, ſhould make uſe of Mediators; becauſe they plainly perceiv'd, that the Mediators did not forward the Affairs; and that they were ready to make Propoſals, if we would incline to the eſtabliſhing of a Barrier between your Majeſty and them. We told them, we could have wiſh'd, with all our Hearts, that they had held the ſame Diſcourſe with us this Winter; that the Peace would have been concluded in fifteen Days; that the Conqueſts your Majeſty has made ſince, have not chang'd your Inclination for the Tranquillity of *Chriſtendom*; but have put us into a Capacity of obtaining much more advantageous Conditions; to which he agreed;

and

and that we ſhould always hear, with Joy, every thing which ſhould be done on their part. Sire, we intimated to them, once or twice, according to your Majeſty's Orders, That it was requiſite the *Spaniards* ſhould become reaſonable; and that we could make no Anſwer to them, till the Mediators had, on their part, made us Offers more ſuitable to the preſent State of Affairs. But ſince the *Hollanders* offer'd to be, in that reſpect, Mediators themſelves, and to diſcourſe with us, we would not abſolutely reject them, for fear leſt it ſhould be told them, that we were not willing to hearken to any Propoſals of Peace; as being beſides very ſenſible, that before Matters were brought to an Engagement, we ſhould receive freſh Orders from your Majeſty, as to the Conduct we are to obſerve at preſent.

Whereupon, we are ſtill farther to notify to you, That the Ambaſſadors of the *States* declar'd to us, that they had no Order from the *Spaniards*, and that the latter had none themſelves, from their King: So that properly, they are only Schemes, which thoſe Gentlemen would draw up, and which the *Spaniards* might diſown, if they did not like them; and which, in caſe we rejected them, might give Occaſion to ſay, That we were become difficult as to the Peace: So that we may, in that reſpect, be farther engaged than the *Spaniards*.

But, on the other hand, it appear'd to us, Sire, by Monſieur *Beverning*'s Diſcourſe, that ſince the laſt Conqueſts, they would, perhaps, be willing to accept of the Conditions, which they would not admit of in the Beginning: For he ask'd us, Whether we would deliver up ſome one of our moſt advanced Places, for the ſettling of a good Barrier? But then he added, It would be always an Affair difficult to be diſcuſſed, to agree about

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an Equivalent for thoſe Places; ſince you do not explain yourſelf, where you would receive them; when they would give them to you in *Catalonia*, you would have them in *Sicily*; and when they would give them to you in *Sicily*, you would have them in *Catalonia*.

This ſlipt from him, without making Reflexion, that he thereby made it appear to us, that he had more particular Intelligence of your Majeſty's Intentions, than that which we gave him; and we may always gain this Advantage thereby, that he begins to enter upon the Buſineſs of thoſe Equivalents, which he would not admit of heretofore.

Monſieur *Beveruing* likewiſe mention'd to us, the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange*, touching the Principality of that Name. And foraſmuch as we told him, That that Buſineſs was not to be adjuſted at preſent, he anſwer'd us, It was true, that it could not be demanded of your Majeſty, that the Citadel ſhould be rebuilt, or that it ſhould be made a ſtrong Place, but that it might be fortified with Walls; and that there is a great deal of Difference between an encloſed Town, and a Village which lies open. We touch'd by the Way, upon ſomewhat your Majeſty order'd us thereupon; but we deferr'd returning a poſitive Anſwer, to a more proper Time and Place; aſſuring him, nevertheleſs, that your Majeſty would reſtore it, with all the Rights which belong'd thereto, when the War was firſt declared. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *April* 30. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may perceive by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, that the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General* begin to fear the Opening of this Campagne; and that they talk in another Language, than they did the laſt Winter: Nevertheleſs, they are deſirous to enter upon a Negotiation for the *Spaniards*. But ſince we are order'd not to hearken thereto, but by the Way of the Mediators, we have been more reſerved; yet we have left Monſ. *Beverning* in a Capacity of making Propoſals. We wait for freſh Inſtructions about this Affair.

My Lord *Berkley* told one of us, as a Secret, That he found a great Change in Monſieur *Beverning*'s Diſcourſes; that hitherto, he ſaid, the *Spaniards* were not for Peace; but now he declar'd, not to him, but to his Collegues, That his Majeſty would not hearken to any Propoſals; that he would make himſelf Maſter of the *Low-Countries*, in ſpite of all the Potentates of *Europe*; and that he demanded Equivalents for ſmall Places and little paltry Towns, which he ſhould be obliged to give up in the *Low-Countries*. We plainly perceive, that this Diſcourſe proceeded from what Monſieur *Lillieroath* had notified here to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, concerning his Negotiation; and according to which, we may judge

judge, by what we have ſeen here, that he did not relate it to our Advantage.

Monſieur *Bevilaqua*, who ſeems to us backward in coming to *Nimeguen*, after having wrote to us two or three Letters of meer Compliment, ſent us word eight days ago, That he was very deſirous to repair hither; but he would willingly know before-hand, whether he ſhould receive all the Treatment ſuitable to his Character. Forasmuch as one of us has already found in a private Conference, with the chief Burgomaſter, that they have reſolved to give him all manner of Satisfaction; we caus'd the ſaid Burgomaſter to be diſcours'd with, only by way of Converſation; and he confirm'd what he had before declared, that all manner of Reſpect ſhould be paid here, to the Perſon of the Nuncio: That the Magiſtrates would go and compliment him, as they had done to other Ambaſſadors; and that he ſhould enjoy at home, and in a Chappel fitted up in his own Houſe, ſuch Grandeur as he thought fit, with the free Exerciſe of his Religion. He added farther, That Monſieur *Bevilaqua* had all theſe Aſſurances from a Biſhop of theſe Parts, by whoſe Interceſſion he deſired them. But, Sir, that which ſurprizes us, is, that we were inform'd by the ſaid Burgomaſter, that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* did not concern themſelves in any thing which relates to the Safety of the Nuncio. We would not ſpeak of this Affair ourſelves, till we had had that Information; and ſince we have had it, we have been yet more circumſpect. We would not give Occaſion to the Mediators of *England*, to ſay, That we were the only Perſons here, who preſs for the Arrival of the Nuncio; and we can't conceive for what reaſon Monſieur *Bevilaqua* apply'd himſelf only to us, who are at War with the *Hollanders*. He wrote to

to us again two days ago, and ſent us Word, That 'twas believ'd at *Rome*, that the Guard which the *States-General* had offer'd him, inſtead of a Paſport, would not ſecure either his Baggage or his Family; and to take away that Suſpicion, (tho' it appear'd to him ill grounded) he deſir'd us to procure a Paſport for him, as the Nuncio *Chigi* had one at *Munſter*. We return'd him Anſwer, That we believ'd, as well as he, that his Baggage and his Family would be very ſafe here; and that as to the Paſport which he deſir'd, if we were Friends of the *States*, as we were then of the Aſſembly of *Munſter*, we would not have given him the Trouble to deſire it: That he knew it was the Buſineſs of the Emperor and the *Spaniards*, who had, at preſent, all the Intereſt with the *States*, to whom they were Allies; but that if the Ambaſſadors, who are here, ſhould make Inſtances for that end, we would join ours, when we ſhould be inform'd thereof. We are, moſt really Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *May* 2. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Receiv'd only yeſterday, at *St. Omers*, your Diſpatch for his Majeſty, and the particular one which you were pleas'd to ſend me, of the 23d *ult.* Foraſmuch as it does not contain any thing which requires a particular Anſwer, I do not direct it to his Majeſty. He has ſeen that wherein you ſent him Word, of the Return of Monſieur *Beverning* to *Nimeguen*. A few Days will give you to underſtand, whether he ſpoke ſincerely every time he declared himſelf to you, That he would enter into a particular Negotiation, in caſe the Allies of his Maſters contínu'd to diſcover ſo great an Averſion to a general one. If they ever had this Deſign at the *Hague*, 'tis to be believ'd, that the ſame will be augmented, ſince the Defeat of the Prince of *Orange*; and that the *States-General* will embrace the Methods of delivering themſelves, by a Peace, from an unhappy War, the Charges of which very much incommode them.

Monſieur *Courtin* has given an Account to his Majeſty, That the King of *Great-Britain* has expreſs'd a great deal of Satisfaction in his Majeſty's Letter, and in the facile Methods he has laid down, to ſtop the Progreſs of his Conqueſts by a Truce. That Prince has, without doubt, imparted this Affair to his Ambaſſadors, and charged them to propoſe it. It would be the Intereſt

of

of his Majeſty's Enemies, to accept thereof. However, he has acquir'd the Teſtimony of all *Europe*, that he has omitted nothing which might contribute to its Tranquillity.

Gentlemen, you have been already inform'd, that the King of *Great-Britain* has adjourn'd his Parliament to the firſt of this preſent Month. That Term appears ſhort; but there are grounds to hope, that from one Adjournment to another, he will put off the Seſſion to the end of the Campagne. Nothing has fell out there, contrary to the Intereſt of *France*, notwithſtanding the Remonſtrances which you heard were made in the Houſe of Commons. The Earl of *Sunderland* on the part of the King of *England*, and my Lord *Dures* on that of the Duke of *York*, came and complimented his Majeſty at *Calais*; at the ſame time that the Duke *de Crequi* paſs'd over to *London*, with the ſame Orders from his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, for the King of *Great-Britain*.

His Majeſty continues to view his Places. He ſtaid one whole Day at *St. Omers*, with all the Satisfaction that could proceed from the View of ſo great and important a Conqueſt. He goes tomorrow to lie at *Liſle*, where he will ſtay a Day or two. In the mean time, his Troops are in Quarters of Refreſhment; and the Graſs which is growing up, will ſpeedily afford new Opportunities for them to go upon Action. Gentlemen, if you pleaſe, be perſuaded of all the Eſteem and Sincerity, with which I am entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *May* 4. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have deliver'd to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, the Letter your Majeſty wrote to the King of *England*, on account of a Truce for a Term of Years; and tho' they highly commended the Deſign of it, and the Integrity with which your Majeſty act towards the King their Maſter; they told us, nevertheleſs, That forasmuch as their Inſtructions were only for a Peace, and they had no Power to conſent to a Truce or Ceſſation of Arms, but for a few Months, and only in caſe that the ſame be judg'd abſolutely neceſſary; they were oblig'd to wait for freſh Orders, as to this new Overture. They alſo gave us to underſtand, That they look upon it as prejudicial to the Intereſt of *Sweden*, and that they believe that all the Differences which occaſion this War might be more eaſily determin'd, than the Time and Conditions of a Truce agreed on; nevertheleſs, forasmuch as that Propoſal will not perhaps produce all the Advantage, which Your Majeſty may expect from it, if it appears that Your Allies make the principal Obſtacle of it at preſent; they aſſur'd us, that they would ſay nothing, which may cauſe a Belief, that they oppoſe it, till the King their Maſter notifies his Sentiments to them. If we may rely on Sir *William Temple*, to whom we deliver'd Your Majeſty's Letter, as well as to his Collegues; the *Spaniards* will be the firſt in re-

fuſing

fuſing that Propoſal: But he is thorowly perſuaded, alſo, That *Sweden* will not accept it, and he believes that all the Potentates, who are now in War, would conſent to a Truce for ſeveral Years, except thoſe two crown'd Heads: He alſo ſaid, That Monſieur *Beverning* is of the ſame Opinion; and this, Sire, is all we know at preſent of the Sentiments of this whole Aſſembly upon that Affair.

We ſhall not trouble Your Majeſty, to tell you of the Attempts, which the Mediators, and the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* and *Holland*, frequently make, as well by ſpeaking to us Three in a body, as in the Conferences, which each of us has had with either of thoſe Miniſters, to learn upon what Conditions Your Majeſty would give Peace, what Exchanges may be made for the Places which give too much Umbrage to the *States-General*, and in what Country Your Majeſty would demand the Equivalent: We made it out, how much they were in the wrong, by telling them, (according to Your Majeſty's Orders) That when they ſhall diſpoſe the *Spaniards* and their Allies, to make Propoſals agreeable to the preſent State of their Affairs; they would perceive how ſincerely you deſire the Tranquillity of *Chriſtendom*.

We ſhall punctually follow Your Majeſty's Orders, touching the Claim of Prince *Charles*, and that of the Princes of *Germany*, who as yet have no Miniſter here. Foraſmuch as we ſhould think ourſelves blame-worthy, if we had fail'd to hold the good Correſpondence, which Your Majeſty enjoin'd us, with your Ambaſſadors, and chiefly with Monſieur *Courtin*; we thought ourſelves oblig'd, by Extracts of our Letters, of the 4th and 8th of *March*, with the Non-Acceptance of which he charges us, in his own of the 12th and 16th of the ſame Month, to prove that we have not declin'd

to inform him, of every thing that was moſt Material, in the firſt Propoſals of Peace, which were made as well by us, as Your Majeſty's Enemies: And if we have not added thereto, all the Writings with which they were complicated; it was only to ſave him the Reading, and the Poſtage of a great Volume of empty Expreſſions, which ſeem'd to us at that time of very little Uſe to him; ſo much the rather, becauſe had he ſignify'd to us his Deſire of it, never ſo little, for theſe two Months which are now relaps'd, we ſhould not have fail'd to have done it in a few Days. For the future, we will ſend him all the Writings, which ſhall be given on both ſides, and we will redouble our Care; ſo as the ſaid Monſieur *Courtin*, or any other Ambaſſador or Envoy of Your Majeſty in Foreign-Countries, ſhall have no reaſon to complain, that we have omitted to give them ſo exact an Information of what is tranſacted here, as the Exigency of Your Majeſty's Affairs can require. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, &c.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 4. 1677.

SIR,

AT this time we have nothing to add to the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King; in caſe you do not find, that we had ſufficiently inform'd Monſieur *Courtin*, of what was moſt Material in the firſt Propoſals of Peace: However, we hope that you will do us the Juſtice to believe, That had he given us ever ſo little notice, that he had occaſion for all the Writings, the Subſtance whereof was contain'd in the Propoſals; we ſhould not have fail'd to have given him full and entire Satisfaction; and there wants but eight Days time between us, to make amends for all thoſe Omiſſions: We ſhall redouble our Care and Exactneſs, to give him no manner of Cauſe to complain for the future. We are moſt really, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 7. 1677.

SIR,

THE Negotiation languiſhes here, to ſuch a Degree, that we have nothing to write to you, but to inform you, that we have nothing which deſerves the King's Notice; and if we may even give credit to Monſieur *Beverning*, the Allies will not haſten to make a Peace, till they ſee the Effect that will be produc'd, by the Efforts which the Armies are to make in *Germany*. However, they have exchang'd the new Powers, and we are inform'd, as well by my Lord *Berkley*, as by the Ambaſſador of *Sweden*, That in a few Days, the ſaid Allies are to give ſecond Writings; tho' we declar'd, that we would neither give nor receive, any more Propoſals in Writing. 'Tis true, that if theſe tend only (as they told us) to make it appear, that every thing which was yielded to *France* and *Sweden*, by the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, ought to be re-united to the Empire; they will be look'd upon rather as a Manifeſto for the Continuation of the War, than as an Introduction to Peace; and they will deſerve an Anſwer no better than the firſt Pretenſions of the *Spaniards*. We hope, we ſhall be in a Capacity, to give you an Account of it, with more Certainty, by the next Poſt. We are, Sir, &c.

LET-

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *May* 8. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I have receiv'd your Diſpatches of the 27th and 30th *ult.* and with the latter, the Memorial which the Ambaſſadors of the *States* caus'd to be deliver'd to you, by the Mediators, concerning ſome Accommodation as to the Treaty of Commerce of the Year 1662: I have obſerv'd at the ſame time, what paſs'd in the Viſit, which the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* made you, and the manner in which Monſieur *Beverning* explain'd himſelf, as to his Sentiments about the Peace. Altho' they are ſtill ſo extravagant and ſo remote from it; nevertheleſs, I would have you take an Occaſion, from this firſt Step, to notifie how ſincerely I ſhould be diſpos'd, to the Concluſion of a Treaty. Wherefore, my Intention is, that you tell the Mediators, and even the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, when you have Opportunities of ſeeing them, That I have conſider'd the Memorial, which was deliver'd to you; That my Intention was always ſincere to re-eſtabliſh the Treaty of 1662, in its whole Force, when I ſhould treat with the *States*; and alſo to admit of Expedients as to ſome Points: That I continue in this Opinion, after having ſeen that Scheme; That nevertheleſs, I have obſerv'd two Articles therein, which cannot be allow'd of, without overthrowing, on one Hand, one of the principal Articles of the Treaty of 1662; and without prejudicing, on the other Hand, the Right of all Sovereigns: The firſt relates to the Duty of

fifty *Sols per* Ton: The ſecond concerns the Liberty which all Princes have, of laying ſuch Impoſts, as they think fit, upon all Merchandizes, which are imported into their Territories. I think it expedient, That as to all the reſt, you may declare, it will be eaſie enough, to find ſuch Expedients and Modifications, as that the *States-General* may be ſenſible, my Intention is to re-eſtabliſh the Commerce by a Peace, with a reciprocal Benefit and Equality, between my Subjects and theirs. I deſire ſo much the rather, That you would ſpeak after this manner, as well to the Mediators, as to the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*; becauſe I think it more conducive to my Service, that the favourable Diſpoſitions which I have for a Treaty of Commerce, being noiſ'd abroad, in the *United-Provinces*, nothing can more incline them to a Peace, than this Aſſurance, and the Satisfaction which they would hope for, on a Point which moſt chiefly concerns their Intereſt.

'Tis my Reſolution alſo, to undeceive the *States*, of the Opinion which they entertain, That I deſign to compleat the Conqueſt of the *Low-Countries*: I am willing with this View, you ſhould aſſure Monſieur *Beverning*, That I am not averſe from leaving them that Barrier, which they ſo earneſtly deſire, ſhould continue to *Spain*: Tell him alſo, That notwithſtanding any Opinion he had diſcover'd to you, as to the Difficulties, which I would raiſe about the Equivalent for the Places I ſhould deliver up; I ſhall be ready to receive it, as often as it is offer'd Me, in *Catalonia*, or in *Navarre*, or in *Italy*: But to the end that you may be enabled, ſtill more eaſily to perſuade them, that I do not aim at the abſolute Conqueſt of the *Low-Countries*; I think fit that you ſhould declare to him, That in caſe His Maſters make Peace with Me, I will oblige Myſelf, no longer to carry on

the War in the *Low-Countries*; provided the *States-General*, at the ſame time, oblige *Spain* and her Allies, to make none againſt Me on that ſide.

You may take ſo much the more Care, to explain yourſelves upon theſe different facile Methods, which may pleaſe the *States-General*, touching their Commerce, and the Eſtabliſhment of a Barrier, which they think ſo important for their *State*; in regard that the Diſcovery of my Sentiments may produce a better Effect among the People, and may make them wiſh for an End of a War, which they now maintain much leſs upon Account of their own Quarrel, than for that of their Allies.

'Tis in this Senſe, that you may declare to Monſieur *Beverning*, That I would willingly accept of his Maſters, for Mediators; when they being enter'd into a Peace with Me, would be more fit for managing an Accommodation between *France* and *Spain*. For the reſt, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Conde, *the* 8*th Day of* May, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *May* 8. 1677.

Gentlemen,

YOur Diſpatch of the 30th *ult.* making no mention of that which the King wrote to you the 26th of the ſame Month; I can no longer doubt, but that the ſame was intercepted. Therefore I ſend you the Duplicate thereof, as well as that of His Majeſty's Letter to the King of *England*, which I write to you from this City, where the King ends the Viſit of all his Places in *Flanders*, and where His Majeſty waits for a ſeaſonable time to re-aſſemble his Troops, which he ſent away, after the taking of *Cambray* and St. *Omers*, on the 18th inſtant. They are preparing to take the Field again, in as good a Condition, as if they had never carry'd three Sieges, and gain'd a Battle. I am, Gentlemen, entirely at your Service.

Gentlemen: The King has obſerv'd in that which you was pleas'd to write to me, That Monſieur *Bevilaqua* apply'd himſelf particularly to you, as well to deſire of you, your good Offices, for the Safety of his Paſſage, as to procure him the Honours, which ought to be paid him at *Nimeguen*. Altho' he ſhould chiefly have made uſe of the Intereſt of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and of *Spain*, with the *States-General*, to obtain what he deſires of them, in a Town under their Obedience; His Majeſty is nevertheleſs well ſatisfy'd, That it appears upon this Occaſion, that a Mi-

a Miniſter of the Pope had particular Recourſe to him. His Holineſs had already caus'd theſe ſort of Offices to be deſir'd of him, by the Duke *d'Eſtrees*; and he explain'd himſelf, That he would willingly contribute every thing, which might tend to his Satisfaction, and the Dignity of his Nuncio: Therefore His Majeſty's Intention is, that in contributing to what may render the Arrival and Reſidence of Monſieur *Bevilaqua* moſt agreeable; you would let His Holineſs know, that His Majeſty concerns himſelf in every thing which has any Relation to him.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 12. 1677.

SIR,

WE are to give you an Account by this Poſt of a Viſit the Mediators made us, to acquaint you, That the Allies went and met them to ſignifie to them, that having receiv'd Orders from their Maſters, upon our firſt Propoſals; they were ready to give in their Anſwers thereto, in order to be communicated to us, at the ſame time, that we ſhould deliver ours. We reply'd to them, That it was to no purpoſe for the Allies, to draw up an Anſwer in Writing; ſince we had explain'd ourſelves to them, and Monſieur *Beverning*, that beſides the firſt Propoſals, we would no longer give any in Writing; but that we would treat by Word of Mouth, by the Interpoſition of the Mediators, or by Conferences with the Parties:

That they and Monſieur *Beverning* were agreed with us, that it was an eaſie matter to diſcover, by the Procedure of the Allies, that they aim'd to find out Pretences for the delaying of the Peace, by rejecting the moſt expeditious Methods, of attaining thereto. We had afterwards a Conference, upon this ſubject, with the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, who told us, That they found themſelves embaraſs'd, in regard that the Orders of the King their Maſter, did not induce them to refuſe to treat by Writing; and that in caſe the Allies perſiſted in a Reſolution, not to do otherwiſe, they could not decline receiving their Propoſals; altho' they are ſufficiently ſenſible, that the ſhorteſt way for the Negotiation, is that of treating *viva voce*. Sir, we ſhall alſo find it difficult, to refrain receiving the Propoſals in Writing, in caſe they ſhould have a mind to ſtop the Negotiation upon that very Account. But in order to make a clear Diſcovery in this Matter, the Count *d'Avaux* has communicated a Thought to us, which may ſucceed very well: It is, that the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* ſhould viſit Monſieur *Beverning*, of their own Accord, and tell him, That they found us reſolv'd not to anſwer Propoſals in Writing; and that this had been agreed upon, between the Mediators, them the ſaid Ambaſſadors, and us; which would oblige him to repreſent to the Allies, how far this Innovation would retard the Treaty of Peace, and engage him to preſs them ſtrongly thereupon; he being one of thoſe, who has moſt ſtrenuouſly oppos'd the receiving of the ſaid Propoſals in Writing: And the rather, becauſe we are ſenſible, that the Writings which they would give us, are rather Manifeſto's, than Propoſals in Writing. To morrow we ſhall have the Anſwer, which the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* have receiv'd from

from Monſieur *Beverning*, and we will give you an Account thereof next *Friday*.

It has been obſerv'd, That in the Full-Power of the Ambaſſador of *Denmark*, the Title of King of *France* is given to the King of *Great-Britain*, beſides thoſe of King of *England* and *Ireland*; tho' the other Allies give him only the two latter.

Sir, we moſt humbly beſeech you, to let us know, whether it conduces to His Majeſty's Service, that we ſhould receive his Full-Powers, wherein the Title of King of *France* is given to the King of *England*, in calling you to obſerve, that there is an Act paſs'd among all the Ambaſſadors, and ſign'd by the Mediators, importing, That the Titles aſſum'd or omitted in the Paſports, Full-Powers, or other Deeds, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial to the ſaid Title of the King of *France*; the ſame having been already given to the King of *England*, in the Paſports of *Brandenburg* and *Denmark*, which you ſent to us at *Charleville*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *May* 14. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; I obſerv'd by the Letter which you wrote to me of the 4th inſtant, that you have imparted to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, the Offer put into the Hands of the King of *Great-Britain*, of a Truce for a Term of Years; provided that Prince obtain the King of *Sweden*'s Conſent to it, without whom I could not enter upon any Treaty. I was, indeed, of Opinion, that thoſe Gentlemen could make no Anſwer, as to the Sentiment of the King their Maſter, in an Affair which was not contained in their Inſtructions. 'Tis ſufficient for me, to have made known in this manner, to the King of *England*, and by him to all the Parties concerned in the Peace, that I omit no Methods which I think capable of bringing it to a good Iſſue.

I imparted a new facile Method to you, in my laſt Diſpatch, when I put you in a Condition to declare to the *States-General*, that in caſe they would treat ſeparately with me, I was ready to engage myſelf, not to carry on the War in the Catholick *Low-Countries*, if their Allies would oblige themſelves, at the ſame time, not to attack me on that ſide.

But becauſe I cannot make too plain a Diſcovery, how earneſtly I deſire to remove the Apprehenſion, which appears ſo general, that I would complete the Conqueſt of the *Low-Countries*, I was willing to put into the Hands of the

King

King of *England*, an Expedient more capable of taking away that Uneaſineſs.

'Twas for this reaſon that, till now, I was unwilling to engage myſelf not to attack the Catholick *Low-Countries*: But in caſe that *Holland* ſhould make a ſeparate Treaty, I was willing to take away a Condition which might require too much Time, and to which the *States-General* would, perhaps, be hardly inclined, in order not to abandon their Allies. Therefore, to diſengage that Propoſal from the Delays which ſeem'd annex'd thereto; I ſignified to the King of *England*, that I had brought a new facile Method for the Preſervation of the *Low-Countries*; that I would put into his Hands the Propoſal, to make no War any longer, in all the Seventeen Provinces; provided *Holland*, *Spain*, and all their Allies, would oblige themſelves to make none againſt me on that ſide: That they would not make uſe of the Places, which they are poſſeſſed of there, in order to carry it into the Provinces of my Kingdom; ſince I would not make uſe of thoſe I have conquer'd, and thoſe of my States which are near thoſe Frontiers, to ſend forth my Arms into any of the Seventeen Provinces; and that as for the reſt, the War might be carried on elſewhere, till a general Peace.

I thought I could not give a better Teſtimony than by this Overture, that my Deſign is not to compleat the Conqueſt of the *Low-Countries*; nor better put *Holland*, and her Allies, out of Conceit, that *Flanders* is in Danger of paſſing ſuddenly under my Dominion. 'Twas in this Senſe, that I wrote to the King of *Great-Britain*; I doubt not but he will ſpeedily communicate it to his Ambaſſadors at *Nimeguen*, and I would inform you thereof at the ſame time; to the end that you may be in a Capacity to make known my Care,

Care, for removing the Jealouſie occaſion'd by the Power of my Arms in *Flanders*. But if this Overture ſhould produce a good Effect, it ought more eſpecially to have an Influence over the *Hollanders*, who will, by that means, be in a Condition to comprehend, that I do not aim to make myſelf Maſter of that Barrier, which they look upon as ſo important for their Preſervation.

I ſee, nevertheleſs, by your Letters of the 4th and 6th inſtant, that Monſieur *Beverning* lets the Time ſtill ſlip away to no purpoſe, which he declar'd he would employ in negotiating with you; and that the exchanging of the new Full Powers, is the only Buſineſs which takes up the Aſſembly. I hope that this Delay of my Enemies in reſuming the Treaty, will only ſerve to augment their Loſſes, and my Advantage; if it has no other Foundation (as you obſerve) than the great Succeſſes they promiſe themſelves from the Arms of *Germany*.

I have been inform'd, that the Sieur *Peſters* continu'd two days in private at *Nimeguen*; and 'tis even aſſur'd, that he ſpent that Time in treating with one or you; but ſince none of your Letters make any Mention of it, I am in Pain to know what Credit I ſhould give to that Advice, into which I expect that you ſhould give me a clearer Light. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care; and you Meſſieurs *Colbert*, and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written at Conde, *the* 14*th of* May, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *May* 14. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King is fully ſatisfied, by the Extract you ſent him of the Letters which you wrote to Monſieur *Courtin*, of the Care you have in keeping up a Correſpondence (which is always ſo neceſſary) with his Ambaſſadors and Foreign Miniſters. The Part you gave him of the Propoſals which were put into your Hands, might have been ſufficient for his Inſtruction; tho you did not add thereto the Copies of the Writings which were communicated to you by the Mediators: Not but ſometimes, one would be very glad, upon the like Occaſions, to have the Pieces themſelves altogether entire.

The Correſpondence you have hitherto had in *England*, will be ſhortly changed as to the Perſon. The King has granted a Permiſſion to Monſieur *Courtin*, as he deſir'd, to return; and has choſen Monſieur *de Barillon* to perform that Embaſſy.

The King will ſtill continue his Reſidence in this City, till the 17th inſtant. His Majeſty has taken this day, to aſſemble his Army near *Valenciennes*; ſo that he is juſt beginning a new Campagne; and there is reaſon to hope, that the ſame will be no leſs Glorious to him, than thoſe which he has hitherto made. I am, Gentlemen, with all manner of Sincerity, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 14. 1677.

SIR,

WE have receiv'd the Letter which you did us the Honour to write to us the 2d inſtant. Nothing has happen'd here ſince our laſt Diſpatch, which deſerves to be notified to you.

My Lord *Berkley* told one of us, That the Mediators had been together, to meet the Allies in the Houſe where they hold their Conferences; and that they declar'd to them, on our part, and on that of the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, that it having been agreed with them the Mediators, and with Monſieur *Beverning*, who was of that Opinion, that Propoſals ſhould be no longer given in Writing, but that they ſhould treat hereafter by Conferences between the Parties, or by the Interceſſion of the Mediators; that both were reſolved upon making uſe of that Method, as the moſt ſpeedy and reaſonable, for the diſpatching of the Negotiation. That Count *Kinsky* anſwer'd them, That he would conſer about it with the Allies, and afterwards give them an Anſwer. We are not very ſolicitous to know it, as being informed from ſeveral Places, that they are about drawing up new Propoſals, as ridiculous as the former. Altho', according to all Appearance, the King of *England* has notified to his Ambaſſadors, the Truce which was propoſed, nevertheleſs they have ſaid nothing of it to us hitherto; and

and even one of us having ask'd them, yeſterday, Whether they had no News from *London?* they anſwer'd him in the Negative. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *May* 18. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Mediators came to tell us, once more, that the Allies were deſirous, that the Anſwer which is to be returned, on both ſides, to the firſt Propoſals, might be given in Writing; and that they had ask'd them, the ſaid Mediators, What other Means they judged moſt convenient, and as certain, to relate the Propoſals on both ſides, without being diſclaimed? The Mediators ask'd us the ſame Queſtion; and both they and we were of the ſame Opinion, *viz.* That Anſwers ought to be given *viva voce*, to the Mediators, who, in our Preſence, ſhould draw up Memorials of what we ſhould tell them; according to which Memorials, they might make a certain and true Report. We ſhall not tell your Majeſty, all the Inconveniencies which we repreſented to them, in the Procedure by Writing, which not only prolongs the Negotiation, but might very eaſily break it off; in regard that thoſe Writings, being full of ſharp and invective Terms, would occaſion Anſwers yet more harſh, and entirely put off all manner of Propoſals of Peace. Whereas the Mediators would lay aſide every thing that the Heat of the Parties might

ſuggeſt

ſuggeſt to them, and only inſert in their Memorials, what is moſt eſſential for the Peace, and may ſerve to promote it. We have ſeen the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, who are likewiſe of the ſame Opinion, and we ſhall explain ourſelves in this manner, to-morrow, to the Mediators. If they can bring over the Allies to it, the Buſineſs will be done; but in caſe the latter ſtill inſiſt upon giving Propoſals in Writing, we have reſolved to tell the Mediators, That what the Allies will give them, being rather Manifeſto's, than Propoſals of Peace, we ſhall look upon them as ſuch, and we ſhall only make Anſwer thereto, as to Libels againſt us; waiting, nevertheleſs, till we ſee whether they are willing to enter upon the Negotiation in good Earneſt. We ought to do this Juſtice to Monſieur *Beverning*, who has always declared, and ſtill continues ſo to do, that he is not willing to treat by Writing. Count *Kinsky* is the only Perſon who inſiſts upon that Point.

My Lord *Berkley* has told us as a Secret, That the Elector of *Brandenburg* has written a Letter to the King of *England*, his Maſter, in diſreſpectful and very haughty Terms, reproaching him for combining with his Enemies, in order to deny his Ambaſſadors the Prerogatives which are due to them; and that if this Practice were continu'd, he would be obliged to recal them from *Nimeguen*. The King of *England*, who has ſent a Copy of this Letter to his Ambaſſadors, waits for ſome Inſight into the Buſineſs. My Lord *Berkley* told us, that he would preſs his Collegues (as far as it lies in his power) to write about it to his *Britannick* Majeſty, to induce him to maintain that Affair vigorouſly, and after ſuch a manner, as would comport with his Dignity.

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He alſo told us, that Sir *Lionel Jenkins* had entirely chang'd his Mind, and that he found him as much inclined to the Peace, as he, at firſt, appear'd averſe from it; that he could not gueſs at the Cauſe thereof, whether it were to deceive him the ſaid Lord *Berkley*, to the end that he might give a good Character of him to the King their Maſter; or whether he had really entertain'd juſt Sentiments; that as to Sir *William Temple*, he was altogether the ſame Man as before; that is to ſay, he ſtill continu'd obſtinately to oppoſe the Peace, and our Intereſts.

Foraſmuch as we have Acceſs, at preſent, to Monſieur *Beverning*, with all manner of Freedom; we thought ourſelves obliged not to delay, one Moment, the executing of thoſe Orders, which your Majeſty gave us in your Diſpatch of the 8th inſtant. Therefore we declar'd to that Ambaſſador, that your Majeſty's Intentions were moſt ſincere for re-eſtabliſhing the Treaty of Commerce of 1662, even to admit therein Expedients as to ſome Points: And after having repreſented to him, the two Difficulties relating to one of the Articles, which they would have chang'd, we aſſur'd him, that in all the reſt, your Majeſty would conſent to ſuch Modifications and Mediums, as they might eaſily perceive, that you were deſirous to re-eſtabliſh Peace and Commerce, with all reciprocal Advantage and Equality, between your Subjects and thoſe of the *States-General*. Monſieur *Beverning* appear'd very well ſatisfy'd with our Diſcourſe, telling us, *bona fide*, That the eſſential Point concern'd them, and affected them moſt; and that he could aſſure us, on his part, that his Maſters were very much inclined to Peace, and had bid him give us Aſſurance, that they would neither wait for the Reſult of the Parliament of *England*, nor the End of this

this Campagne; and that at all Times, and rather to-day than to-morrow, they were very ready to enter upon a Negotiation, and conclude the Peace. We could not have a fairer Opportunity to let him know your Majesty's Intentions, and therefore, we explain'd them to him, after the manner we were order'd to do it. Whereupon, Monſ. *Beverning*, having told us, It would be expedient, in that Caſe, to draw up a Scheme for them, and another for the *Spaniards*, and that when we ſhould be agreed with them upon all Matters, we might, without ſigning them, come to an Agreement with *Spain*, as to what concerns that Crown; we made Anſwer to them, That there were two Ways of attaining to Peace, *viz.* One, to form (as he had propos'd it) Schemes for that purpoſe, between them and *Spain*; that this Procedure, nevertheleſs, appear'd tedious to us, and would not remedy what they were apprehenſive of, that your Majeſty would daily make new Conqueſts; ſince not being able to oblige the *Spaniards* to explain themſelves, as long as we had no Treaty concluded and ſigned with the *States*; the Negotiation, which would be prolong'd, would leave the Progreſs of our Arms in the *Low-Countries* abſolutely free, during the Campagne. That the other Expedient, which was to reſtore the *States*, by a good Peace, to his Majeſty's Friendſhip, would render them much more capable of being the real Mediators, and your Majeſty agreeing, at the ſame time, upon a Suſpenſion of Arms in the *Low-Countries*, would rid them of all manner of Fear, and give them ſufficient Time to bring the *Spaniards* to reaſonable Terms. Monſieur *Beverning* ſeem'd to us to approve of this Propoſal; for he aſk'd us ſeveral Queſtions, as a Perſon uſually does, who ſeeks to get an Inſight into a Buſineſs, and to foreſee all Inconveniencies. He

even

even objected to us, that during the Ceſſation of Arms, we might carry all our Forces into *Germany*. We gave him to underſtand, that it would be to our Prejudice; becauſe we were not diſpoſed to make any Conqueſts on that ſide; that we would ſtick to the Treatie of *Weſtphalia*, and . . . . . ; and that all the Allies would agree, of their own accord, that our Conqueſts could only be advantageous to us on the ſide of *Flanders*. But (ſaid he) what will you do with reſpect to the Duke of *Lorrain*? We anſwer'd him, That there was nobody empower'd to treat for him, and that even, at preſent, there was no Buſineſs in hand concerning him; and that if they were deſirous to adjuſt, at the ſame time, all the Intereſts of their Allies, particularly thoſe of *Lorrain* and the Empire; then it would be requiſite to have recourſe to the general Way of Mediators, to treat together.

Whereupon, Monſieur *Beverning* told us, That he only ask'd that Queſtion by way of Diſcourſe, and that he agreed, your Majeſty would do enough, at preſent, in conſenting to a Treaty of Commerce with the *States*, and in granting them that Barrier, which they plainly perceiv'd was given purely upon their Account. He alſo ask'd us, Whether we had nothing new to notify to him, touching the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange*? And we told him, That your Majeſty had ſent us no Inſtructions ſince your firſt Anſwer, which he knew already; but that the Prince of *Orange* might be aſſur'd, that when he was reſtor'd, with the *States*, to your Majeſty's Favour, he would have all the reaſon in the World to be ſatisfy'd therewith. After all theſe Queſtions, and after having made ſome Reflexion with himſelf, he told us, I plainly ſee Gentlemen, what I have to do; 'tis requiſite I

ſhould

ſhould make the *Spaniards* declare their Minds; for we well know the Places of *Flanders* which are proper for our Security, but we do not know what Places they are deſirous of. Therefore they muſt explain themſelves, as to that matter, to us, and I will give you an Account of it; and afterwards 'tis requiſite, (if you pleaſe) that you ſhould likewiſe explain yourſelves, in your Turn, about the Exchanges you would require for the Places, which you are willing to abandon. We very well approv'd of his Notion, to know exactly, what the *Spaniards* deſire, and to acquaint us therewith; and we gave him to underſtand, That as to the Exchanges, we ſhould be much more ready to accept of them in ſuch a Country, as the *Spaniards* would think fit to give them, than expreſly to declare where we would receive them; ſince the *Spaniards* themſelves would not perhaps be diſpos'd, to give them us where we would have them. However, we were not willing to proceed farther in the Matter; reſerving to diſcourſe of it, when he ſhall diſcover to us the Sentiments of the *Spaniards*: He alſo ſpoke a Word to us, concerning *Maeſtricht*; and foraſmuch as we anſwer'd him, That the *States* were engag'd to give it to the *Spaniards*: That is true, (ſaid he) but the Prince of *Orange* lays great Claim thereto as well as we; and if you once put it into our Hands by a Treaty of Peace, we ſhould find means to keep it by giving an Equivalent to *Spain* for that Place. Laſtly, Sir, Monſieur *Beverning* accepted this Propoſal of Your Majeſty, with ſo much Earneſtneſs, that he told us that he was minded to go and meet the Prince of *Orange*, who is at *Boeſdyke*, and will ſpeedily return to the *Hague*; That he would diſcourſe with him about it thorowly, becauſe he could not well write all theſe Particulars, and that he would do more Buſineſs in one Conference

rence with him, than he could make him apprehend in ten Letters.

Monſieur *Beverning* kept his Word with us, and it muſt certainly needs be, that he has conceiv'd ſome hopes of making a Peace by that Means; For we diſcours'd with him, on *Sunday* at ſix a Clock in the Evening, and the next Day being *Monday*, which was Yeſterday, he ſet out at five a Clock in the Morning, without ſaying any thing to any of the Ambaſſadors who are here, to whom he uſually gave Notice, when he undertook ſuch ſort of Journeys.

It alſo falls out luckily, that the *States* are going to meet, and that in the firſt Overture of their Aſſembly, they will be anticipated by Your Majeſty's good Intention for their Commerce, and for the Security of the *Low-Countries*: So that, Sire, we have grounds to hope, That the Orders Your Majeſty has given us ſo opportunely, will have all the good Effect that you can deſire; we dare tell you, that if the Peace be feaſible by any Means, it is by that: For Monſieur *Beverning* is an able Perſon, and well affected; and will make the *States* ſenſible of Your Majeſty's Good-Will, which has been hitherto conceal'd from them: He does it at preſent, by a Way that cannot be queſtion'd, and which will not leave room to doubt, that we are altogether diſpos'd, to conclude with the Ambaſſadors of the *States*, every thing that we have offer'd to them; we are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 18. 1677.

SIR,

YOu will ſee by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, That we were not diſpos'd to enter upon Buſineſs, eſpecially that which relates to Prince *Charles*: Notwithſtanding the Inſtruction His Majeſty has given us thereupon; we did not think it was yet a proper time to notify it; and we wait farther, for that Purpoſe, till the ſaid Negotiation is ſomewhat more advanc'd, and till you do us the Honour to ſend us Word, that His Majeſty thinks fit we ſhould explain ourſelves therein.

Sir, we would alſo fain know, whether His Majeſty approves, That when the Buſineſs of the Exchange comes to be treated of, we ſhould demand the Equivalent in *Sicily*, to be in a Capacity of giving up that Kingdom entirely to Prince *Charles*. But foraſmuch as this Affair is not yet ſo urgent; we have all the time imaginable to notifie to you, the Intentions of the *Spaniards*, before His Majeſty be under a neceſſity to explain himſelf thereupon.

Sir, neither ought we to omit telling you, That Monſieur *Beverning* deſir'd to know of us, whether we would do any thing for our Allies; but he only ask'd us that Queſtion by the way, and without inſiſting upon it.

Sir,

Sir, we ſhall endeavour as much as lies in our Power, That Monſieur *Bevilaqua* may be receiv'd here, with all manner of good Treatment: We wrote to him this Day, and gave him to underſtand, after what manner the King order'd us to uſe our good Offices here, in order to procure for him every thing that he can wiſh for, relating to his Safety and the Honour due to his Character.

Sir, the King's Letter of the 23d *ult.* of which you ſent us a Duplicate, has been deliver'd to us, as you have heard ſince: It only continu'd upon the Road ſomewhat longer than the reſt, which hinder'd us from returning an Anſwer thereto the 30th.

Sir, we ought not to omit acquainting you, That we would not explain ourſelves to Monſieur *Beverning*, as to what concerns *Maeſtricht*; but when we ſhall enter into a Diſcuſſion of that Point with him, our Reſolution is (according to your Orders) to give him hopes of its Reſtitution, when the *States-General* ſhall make a ſeparate Peace; However, in caſe they would at the ſame time agree, as to what relates to *Spain*, this Town being one of thoſe, which is to be deliver'd up to that Crown, to ſerve as a Barrier, we ſhould lawfully demand an Equivalent for it: We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *May* 21. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; The particular Letter which you wrote to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, the 11th inſtant, ſhews Me the need you have to be inform'd of my Intentions as to two Points, *viz.* the firſt touching the Anſwer which the Mediators told you, that my Enemies Miniſters were preparing to make in Writing to your firſt Propoſals; the ſecond touching the Title of King of *France*, which the King of *Denmark* has given to the King of *England* in his Full-Powers.

As to the former, I approve of the Scruple you made, to tie up the Negotiation to the Delays, which are inſeparable from the Procedure by Writing, and that you gave Notice of it to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*: I approve alſo of the Expedient you made uſe of, to cauſe it to be repreſented, by the ſaid Ambaſſadors, to Monſieur *Beverning*, how averſe they were from following this Method of treating, as contrary to the neceſſary Diſpatch of an Affair which it is ſo highly requiſite to forward. 'Tis to be wiſh'd, That Monſieur *Beverning* were convinc'd of it, and that he may be able to perſuade the Allies thereto, and 'tis this that your ſucceeding Diſpatches will very ſhortly notify to Me. But if after you have made uſe of all your Arguments, the Miniſters of my Enemies ſhould obſtinately reſolve to take no other Method, and the Miniſters of *Sweden* ſhould continue not to reject them; then 'tis my Intention,

tion, that you ſhould conform to the ſame. 'Tis ſufficient, that you ſhould notify by the Oppoſition you make, that you will, as far as lies in your Power, endeavour to find out ſhorter Methods, in order to treat of Peace, *viva voce* and by Conferences: But foraſmuch as I doubt, whether my Enemies deſign to anſwer very ſpeedily and reaſonably to the Propoſals you deliver'd to the Mediators, I ſhall have time enough, to learn the Sentiments of Monſieur *Beverning*, and whether he has brought over the Miniſters of the Allies of his Maſters thereto.

As to the Title, which the King of *Denmark* has given to the King of *England*, in his Full-Powers, I do not judge it proper, that you ſhould take off the Difficulty of it; beſides that I do not regard that vain Title, with which the King of *England* has ſeem'd to honour himſelf ſo long, the Writing by which you have agreed, That the Titles which are aſſum'd or omitted by the Parties, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial, hinders that from ſerving as a Precedent. For what remains, I pray God, to take you, my Couſin, into his holy and worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

Written from the Camp at Thulin, *the 21ſt of* May, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *May* 21. 1677.

Gentlemen,

SInce the Letter the King wrote to you, and which I ſent you, I receiv'd yours of the 14th inſtant. It ſhews to his Majeſty the firſt Steps which were made by the Mediators, to induce the Miniſters of the Allies, not to inſiſt upon the Pretenſion of treating by Writing. If they have a true Intention to forward the Peace, they will not heſitate about undertaking the Method of Conferences, as the neareſt Way to it; but if they inſiſt upon the firſt Pretenſions, you perceive, Gentlemen, that his Majeſty permits you to abate your Demand, when you ſee your Efforts unable to make it ſucceed.

I have ſent you the Paſport which Don *Pedro Ronquillo* deſir'd of you, for the Marquis *de la Fuente*; not but that it was tranſmitted to him before, at his Departure from *Venice*; but leſt the time of it ſhould be expired, becauſe I did not take notice of the exact Minute, I ſend yon another.

The King having given his Troops time to recover themſelves, in Quarters of Refreſhment, from the Fatigues and Toils of three Sieges and a Battle; and having ſtaid till the Coming up of the Graſs afforded him Means to ſubſiſt in the Field; his Majeſty re-aſſembled all his Army,

two

two day ago, in this Camp. The ſame is ſo fine and numerous, as if it had not acted for three Months paſt. In the mean time, that commanded by the Marquis *de Crequi*, and that under the Mareſchal *de Schomberg* on the *Maeſe*, is in the ſame Condition. Hitherto, Gentlemen, the Prince of *Orange* continues in his Quarters, in the Country of *Waes*; and the Prince of *Lorrain* waits in *Luxemberg*, till he is join'd by the Imperial Army.

Two days ago, the King receiv'd the News of a ſignal Advantage, which his Ships gain'd over the *Hollanders*, the firſt day of *Lent*, in the *Eaſt-Indies*. The Count *d'Eſtrees*, who commanded ten of his Majeſty's Men of War in thoſe Seas, being inform'd, that fourteen *Dutch* Ships lay at Anchor in the Port of *Tabago*, and under the Caſtle of that Iſland, form'd a Deſign to attack them. He enter'd the Harbour, tho' the Paſſage which led thereto, was ſtreight and dangerous. He went as far as almoſt within Musket-ſhot of them, without firing a Cannon; and being come up cloſe to them, he maintain'd the Fight, (which was very fierce on the part of the *Hollanders*) till he had burnt and ſunk all the fourteen Veſſels. This great Advantage, being one of the moſt conſiderable which has been gain'd a long time at Sea, coſt his Majeſty four Ships, and ſome Officers: But ſo great Glory cannot be acquir'd without ſome Loſs. I am, Gentlemen, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *May* 21. 1677.

SIRE,

YOur Majeſty perceiv'd, by the laſt Letter we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to you, that we have not only made all the Overtures to Monſieur *Beverning*, which you order'd us; but alſo, that thoſe Propoſals were ſo agreeable to that Ambaſſador, that he ſet out immediately, to inform the Prince of *Orange* and the *States* thereof. We impatiently wait for his Return, which will, in all Appearance, be this day, or to-morrow; and we alſo expect, that he will notify to us, the Sentiments of his Maſters, in order to explain to him, at the ſame time, thoſe of your Majeſty, concerning a general Truce, in all the Seventeen Provinces. Till which time, and until we have concerted with him, after what manner we ſhall explain ourſelves to the Mediators, we have reſolved to declare nothing of your Majeſty's Intentions; becauſe Monſieur *Beverning* having been very reſerved to us upon their account, eſpecially in what we told him, we believe it expedient for your Majeſty's Service, to expreſs our Readineſs to repoſe the ſame Truſt in him, and to begin always by him to treat of Affairs.

'Tis true, Sire, that Monſieur *Peſters* came hither; and 'tis about a Month ago ſince he ſpoke to me, the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades*; but foraſmuch

much as it was only about ſome particular Affair, of which I gave an Account to the Marquis *de Louvois*, we did not think it proper to give ourſelves the Honour to write to your Majeſty about it; and the rather, becauſe we look upon the Negotiation of the ſaid Sieur *Peſters*, as entirely at an end; and we are all of one common Opinion, that the beſt and ſpeedieſt Way to conclude a Peace with the *States-General*, and with the Prince of *Orange*, (if they are well diſpoſed) is by means of Monſieur *Beverning*, with whom, we believe, 'tis expedient, for your Majeſty's Service, to continue the Overtures of a Treaty, without Interruption. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 21. 1677.

SIR,

MY Lord *Berkley* has communicated to one of us, a Copy of the Letter which the Elector of *Brandenburg* wrote to the King his Maſter; altho' you have, perhaps, receiv'd it by another Hand, nevertheleſs, we thought ourſelves obliged to ſend it to you with all the Secrecy which my Lord *Berkley* requir'd; as being perſuaded, that the Communication of it may be laid to his Charge. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 25. 1677.

SIR,

WE hop'd that the Return of Monſieur *Beverning* would have furniſh'd us with ample Matter to write to the King by this Poſt; but we heard yeſterday, by the Secretary of the Ambaſſador of *Holland*, that having not met with the Prince of *Orange* at the *Hague*, or in any other place, he was obliged to go to the Army, to ſpeak with him. And foraſmuch as we thought it requiſite, for his Majeſty's Service, that during the Conferences which the ſaid Miniſter is to hold with that Prince, he ſhould be inform'd of the laſt Orders you gave us, concerning a Ceſſation of Hoſtilities on all ſides, throughout the Extent of the Seventeen Provinces, till a general Peace may be agreed on, with all the Parties who are in War, or a particular one with the *States-General*. We therefore thought ourſelves obliged to acquaint the ſaid Secretary with it laſt Poſt, in whom we know Monſieur *Beverning* repoſes an entire Confidence; to the end that according to the Promiſe which he made us, either to go himſelf to find him, or to write to him by an Expreſs, that Miniſter might return with full Inſtructions, as to the Intentions of the ſaid Prince, as well upon the Articles which we diſcours'd with him about, as upon this Ceſſation.

The Allies have acquainted us, by the Mediators, that the Abſence of the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning*, and Monſieur *Haeren*, who, nevertheleſs, is ſince arrived, was the Cauſe they had not yet been able to take their final Reſolution, as to the manner of treating by Word of Mouth or Writing: But in all Appearance, the principal Reaſon of their Delay, is becauſe they have no Orders, as yet, to promote the Negotiation; and the ſaid Monſieur *Beverning* is not minded to grant the Writings which may retard it. It ſeems alſo, that the Allies flatter themſelves, that he will not find the Prince of *Orange* very favourable to the Propoſals which he is to make. His Return will diſcover to us what we may expect from him.

Sir, the Preſident *Canon*, whom you know, is arrived here, with the Character of Miniſter and Plenipotentiary from Prince *Charles*; and we did not think we could exempt ourſelves from receiving his Viſit, upon the Inſtance which was made us by the Mediators. He deſigns to deliver his Power forthwith into their Hands, and after the ſame ſhall be communicated to us, to give in his Propoſals, which are to be ſtrenuouſly back'd by the Mediators, and the Ambaſſadors of the *States-General*. We ſhall make no Anſwer thereto, nor any Overture as to the Recompence to which his Majeſty told us he was willing to conſent, by his Diſpatch of the 21ſt of *February*: And we ſhall likewiſe ſuſpend all manner of Proteſtation againſt the Title of Duke of *Lorrain*, which his Majeſty has granted in his Paſports to Prince *Charles*, till we have receiv'd from you, Sir, his Majeſty's farther Orders, as well upon the Demands which that Envoy makes of us, as in Anſwer to this. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the writing of our Letter, the Mediators brought us the Full Power of the Preſident *Canon*, and left us a Copy of it, which we ſend you, reſerving to the next Poſt to inform you, Sir, of the Obſervations we have made thereupon, becauſe the little Time which remains before the Departure of this Poſt, does not permit us to do it now. They alſo declar'd to us, That the Allies did not deſign to depart from the Reſolution which they have taken, to continue giving their Propoſals in Writing, till they ſhall think convenient: And foraſmuch as we have already informed you, Sir, of all the Arguments we laid down before them, to ſhew them, how that Method would retard the Peace, we ſhall not trouble you with them now.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *May* 28. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Diſpatch wherewith your Majeſty was pleas'd to honour us, of the 21ſt inſtant, has put us in a Condition to terminate the Difficulty which hinder'd us ever ſince the time that we inform'd you of it, in order to receive your Inſtructions. However, we have omitted nothing that might convince the Mediators, and conſequently the Allies, that the ſhorteſt Method to treat of Peace, would be that of ſpeaking on both ſides, *viva voce*, to the firſt Propoſals which might advance it. We frequently gave them to underſtand, that foraſmuch as by Writing they might digeſt the Subſtance of them, refined from every thing which the Animoſity of War might let ſlip, in prejudice of the contrary Party, both ſides would hear only from their Mouths, what was moſt material in a Propoſal, accompanied alſo with all the Arguments by which it would be aſſerted before them, or which their Prudence might ſupply, where the Parties were deficient; and that conſequently, they would avoid all cauſe of Heart-burning, and every Delay, which is inſeparable from Negotiations in Writing. We alſo ſupported our Opinion, by the Honour of the Mediators, in regard they would have a great deal more Merit, and their Wiſdom and Addreſs would have more Scope in theſe ſorts of Conferences, than in a bare Delivery of Writings, with which

which they would be charged. However, at length, whether the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* thought the Method of treating in Writing the moſt ſure, to make their Intereſts keep an even Pace with thoſe of their Allies, and to prevent the Diſunion of theſe with the *States-General*; or that they deſign'd, by their Writings, to lay all the Blame of the Aſſault upon *France*, as well in *Germany*, as *Flanders*; or laſtly, that they oppos'd the Expedient, to put the Mediators in Truſt by Word of Mouth, with the Methods concerted on either ſide, in order to facilitate the Peace, only becauſe we maintain'd it by our Arguments: They ſent us Word, two days ago, that they would not depart from the Reſolution they had taken, to give their Anſwers to our firſt Propoſals in Writing: That they deſign'd alſo to reſerve to themſelves the Liberty of uſing this ſame Method hereafter, or to make their Propoſals by Word of Mouth, as they ſhould think moſt convenient for their Affairs; in as much as they would alſo leave us at Diſcretion, to declare, by Word of Mouth, or in Writing, what we pleas'd. So that, (according to the Permiſſion your Majeſty gave us) we reſolv'd, in concert with the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, to put an End to that Difficulty forthwith, by taking away all manner of Colour for charging us with the leaſt Delay of the Negotiations. And accordingly, we notify'd, that Afternoon, to the Mediators, purſuant to your Majeſty's Orders, that the Oppoſition we had hitherto made againſt the Intention of the Allies, was an Effect of the Deſire we had, to find out the neareſt Ways to attain to a Peace; and that we had grounds to hope, the good Condition of your Majeſty's Affairs would alſo furniſh them with Means, and the ſame Sentiments: But that ſince they were

diſpoſed

diſpoſed to go the longeſt Way about, we choſe much rather to follow it, than to take none at all; and foraſmuch as Sir *William Temple* had already given us to underſtand, the day before yeſterday, that neither he nor his Collegues, could exempt themſelves from receiving the Propoſals or Anſwers in Writing, which the Allies have already put into their Hands: And whereas he preſs'd us, this day, to communicate our Sentiments to them likewiſe, either in the ſame manner, or by Word of Mouth, to notify it to the ſaid Allies, at the ſame time that they ſhould give us their Writing: We pitch'd upon a Day, *viz.* to-morrow, and we reſolv'd together, that without hearing the Particulars of their firſt Propoſals, (to which your Majeſty judg'd we ſhould make no Anſwer) we ſhould only intimate to the Mediators, that when they have diſpoſed the Allies to make ſuch as are ſuitable to the preſent Poſture of Affairs, we would make Anſwer thereof; and in mean while, to give them ſomewhat to communicate on our part, we ſhould juſtify our firſt Demands, and tell them, that in the firſt place, with reſpect to the Emperor and the Empire, we believe they could not reaſonably deſire of us, Propoſals more juſt and equitable, than thoſe founded upon the Treaties of *Weſtphalia* in their firſt State; ſince his Imperial Majeſty has ſworn to obſerve them, by his Capitulation, and all the Princes and States of the Empire are obliged to receive it as a fundamental Law of the Empire, and the only Means of preſerving the Tranquillity thereof: That as for *Spain*, we alſo believe we have good grounds to perſiſt in our firſt Propoſals, which are, that all things ſhould remain in the State wherein the Fortune of War has placed them; the rather, becauſe God has plainly made it appear, by the proſperous Succeſs with which

which he has bleſs'd his Majeſty's Arms, how advantageous it would be for that Crown, to accept of our firſt Offers; without ſo long retarding, by Amuſements, the Happineſs of Peace, which we offer'd here above a Year ago, on the part of Your Majeſty: That with Reſpect to the King of *Denmark*, when our Allies ſhall be content, we ſhall be ſo likewiſe; and that as to the *States-General*, we hope the Anſwer we made on the part of Your Majeſty to the Articles of Commerce, which were preſented to us on their part, will ſatisfie them.

This, Sire, is what will be the Subſtance of our Anſwers; and we ſhall advance nothing farther, till we have ſent Your Majeſty the Writings of the Allies, and You have afterwards honour'd us with Your Orders. The Mediators alſo ſpoke to us at the ſame time, about the Intereſt of Prince *Charles*, and told us, That the Preſident *Canon* was ready to deliver in his Claims, and that he deſir'd that we ſhould alſo give in our Counter-pleas at the ſame time: We only reply'd to them, That it was requiſite firſt, to agree about his Power, which appear'd to us very defective: That afterwards, when he had given in his Demands, we would ſend them to Your Majeſty, to receive your Inſtructions about an Affair, which ſeem'd to us very Novel; as having hitherto acknowledg'd Prince *Charles*, only as a General of your Enemies Forces; and not knowing what he has to claim from Your Majeſty, much leſs what Right he has to demand Counter-pleas of You at the ſame time, as if one Equal were treating with another. However, Sire, we are oblig'd to tell Your Majeſty, That we doubt not but the Allies will ſtrenuouſly maintain the Intereſts of that Prince, in the ſecond Propoſals which they are to give in Writing: We might reject the Inſtances,

which

which would be made in his Favour, as well by the Emperor as the Princes of *Germany*, who are in War; in regard that by the third Article of the Treaty of *Munſter*, it was ſtipulated, That the Emperor and the *States* of the Empire could only act in the Controverſie touching *Lorrain*, by amicable Interpoſitions, without making uſe of Arms and Military-Means: But foraſmuch as they will ſay, That the ſame Difference which occaſion'd that Stipulation, was determin'd by the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, and by other ſubſequent ones, made with the late Duke of *Lorrain*; and that with Reſpect to Prince *Charles*, they are at Liberty to aſſiſt him all manner of Ways: We ſhall not inſiſt upon that Exception, unleſs we are confirm'd therein by Your Majeſty's Orders. You may alſo notify to us, (if you pleaſe) whether in twelve or fifteen Days, in which we are aſſur'd the Aſſembly will be complete, by the Arrival of the Pope's Nuncio, the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, and the Biſhop of *Gurk*, we ought to proteſt againſt the Title of the Duke of *Lorrain*, which Your Majeſty, for the Advancement of the Peace, permitted to be inſerted in his Paſports.

The Mediators have made new Inſtances to us, in favour of the Elector of *Brandenburg*'s Ambaſſadors, who maintain the Claim they make, to procure the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency, for the ſecond as well as the firſt, by ſome Acts of Poſſeſſion, which they ſay they have, as well of Monſieur *de Lombre*, who was Your Majeſty's Ambaſſador in *Poland*, and who interceded as a Mediator in the Treaty of Peace, which was ſign'd at *Oliva*, as of Cardinal *Bonzy* at that time Biſhop of *Beziers*, alſo Your Majeſty's Ambaſſador at the ſame Court: That they alledge, the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency, has been likewiſe given to a Miniſter of the Duke of *Newburg*, inveſted

inveſted with the Character of Ambaſſador. They alſo affirm, That no Example can be produc'd of the contrary, and that there never was any ſecond Ambaſſador of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, who allow'd of that Difference between the firſt and him: That if the Ambaſſadors of the other Electors ſuffer'd it, that could be no Bar againſt the Claim of his Electoral Highneſs, who (ſay they) has a great many other Titles annex'd to the Character of Elector. We anſwer'd them, That hitherto we knew none that belong'd to him, more Eminent than that of Elector, whoſe Prerogatives were always extremely regarded by Your Majeſty; but that we could only go by what had happen'd in Aſſemblies, as celebrated as thoſe of *Munſter* and *Frankfort*; wherein the ſecond Ambaſſador of Electors, did not receive the ſame Honours as the firſt. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *May* 28. 1677.

SIR,

THE King's Diſpatch and yours of the 21ſt, came very opportunely, to put an end to the Conteſts, which detain'd us as to the manner of treating, whether by Word of Mouth or Writing; and we believe that we may be able to ſend you by the firſt Poſt, the Notions of the Allies, which in all Appearance, will not draw us near the Mark that all of us ought to aim at. We know not as yet, the Day when Monſieur *Beverning* will return. The Secretary of the Embaſſy told one of us, That that Miniſter has given Orders to his Deputy at the *Hague*, to ſend him no Letters, that ſhould be wrote to him, and that therefore he could not be inform'd of what we wiſh he might have been.

Foraſmuch, Sir, as we are perſuaded, That the King is not diſpos'd to give Satisfaction to the Elector of *Brandenburg*, as to the Treatment which that Prince claims for the ſecond of his Ambaſſadors; and it concerns us, to confirm the Mediators in the Refuſal which they have made, in Imitation of us: We deſire you to give us a clear Information, as to the Examples, which they alledge in their favour, and thoſe which ſerve to prove the contrary. One of us believes, That he has even ſeen at *Frankfort*, three Ambaſſadors of the ſaid Elector, come to the Houſe of

of the Mareſchal *de Grammont*, where was alſo the late Monſieur *de Lionne*; and that both thoſe Gentlemen, at that time Ambaſſadors from His Majeſty, ſtep'd in between them, after the firſt of the ſaid Elector: But foraſmuch as he cannot ſo well rely upon his Memory, as to be able to aſſert it; we moſt humbly intreat you, Sir, if you are able to find out the Truth of it, to let us know it; becauſe the ſame may be of very great Service to us, with Reſpect to the ſaid Mediators, who are in a ſort of a Confuſion. *Don Pedro Ronquillo* has receiv'd, with a great deal of Joy, the Paſport we ſent him, which he paſſionately deſir'd. We are, Sir, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *June* 1. 1677.

SIR,

OUR Diſpatch of the 28th *ult.* ſo particularly informs you, of the Anſwer we were to make to the Mediators, which is only a Confirmation of our former Sentiments, as to the firſt Propoſals; that we ſhall not trouble you with a Repetition of them: We ſhall only tell you, That after having notified to the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, what we would tell them, they agreed to do the ſame. We went afterwards to the ſaid Mediators, and told them by Word of Mouth, our Sentiments, as to the firſt Propoſals; they committed the ſame to Writing, and are to communicate them to the Allies.

We

We are inform'd, That Monſieur *Beverning* is return'd to the *Hague*, after having ſeen the Prince of *Orange* in *Flanders*: We hope that he will very ſhortly come back hither, and that by his Anſwer, we ſhall plainly diſcover the Diſpoſitions, which the *States* entertain for the promoting of Peace. We expect the Nuncio this Day. The Retinue of the Marquis *des Balbaſelos* is arriv'd, and his Perſon ſtays at *Cologn* for a few Days.

It appears to us, That the Allies are more forward in repairing to *Nimeguen* than ever, and alſo with ſuch Characters, as will not embaraſs the Negotiation. Monſieur *Spanheim*, the Elector *Palatine*'s Envoy, has ſeen us, and we have return'd him his Viſit: We receiv'd it, as we did the Reſidents: We dealt juſt thus, with the Preſident *Canon*, Envoy of Prince *Charles*: Altho', Sir, we do not doubt, but that by this time, you have receiv'd the Letter, which Monſieur *de Feuquiere* wrote from *Malmoe* to the King, dated the 15th of *April*; nevertheleſs, in order to conform to what he ſeems to deſire of us, we ſend you an Extract of ours, which he ſays is an Abridgment of that which he wrote to His Majeſty, and the Loſs of which he is much concern'd for. We are, &c.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.
Dated *June* 4. 1677.

SIRE,

WHen we gave ourſelves the Honour to write to Your Majeſty, by our Diſpatch of the 18th *ult.* we inform'd you of the Expedient we propos'd to the Mediators, as to the manner of committing to Writing themſelves, in the Preſence of the Parties, what was concluded in the Conferences, to prevent the Delay and Animoſity that would be occaſion'd, by the Writings on both ſides; whereof we receiv'd the Approbation of Monſieur *Beverning*, who was always inclin'd to anſwer only verbally: But the Miniſters of the Allies, having perſiſted in their Reſolution to give Anſwers in Writing, to the Propoſals; and Your Majeſty having order'd us by your Diſpatch of the 21ſt of *May*, to allow it, if we could do no better; we were oblig'd to conform thereto, unleſs we would ſtop the Courſe of the Negotiations. Therefore, Sire, we have accepted from the Hands of the Mediators, the Anſwers which they gave us, from the Miniſters of their Allies, or to ſay better, their Invectives; becauſe we could not do otherwiſe, of which we this day ſend Copies to Monſieur *Pomponne*: But 'twas, Sire, with this Difference on our part, that we gave ours only by Word of Mouth to the ſaid Mediators, who drew up ſuccinct Memorials of them, in our Preſence, in order to communicate them to our Parties. We ſhall only anſwer their Writing, according to the Orders which your Majeſty ſhall pleaſe to give us thereupon; foraſmuch as it was only

only upon account of the frequent Reports of the Mediators, that we had the Honour to give your Majeſty an Account of the Claim of the Elector of *Brandenburg*, as to the Precedency and Title of *Excellency* for his Ambaſſadors, without Diſtinction; and whereas they make no farther Mention of it to us, ſo neither ſhall we ſpeak any more of it to your Majeſty.

Sire, we ſhall not fail to acquaint my Lord *Berkley* with the particular Satisfaction your Majeſty has in his Zeal and Affection for your Service; and certainly, we ſhall ſuſtain a very great Loſs, when he fails us in this Point; and ſo much the more, in regard that we fear Sir *William Temple* has ſtill more Power over Monſieur *Hyde* than Sir *Lionel Jenkins*.

Monſ. *Beverning* is (as we hear) return'd from the Prince of *Orange*'s Army, and we very impatiently expect him here, to learn of him the Succeſs of his Journey, and to give an Account thereof to your Majeſty.

Sire, we will make uſe of what your Majeſty was pleas'd to add, for our particular Inſtruction, That you are diſpoſed to extend the Truce, as well to *Germany*, and other Places, as to the *Low-Countries*; which will fully anſwer the Objection Monſieur *Beverning* made to us, That this would not be to ſtop the War, but only to free *Flanders* from it, in order to carry your Majeſty's Arms elſewhere. And we ſhall not fail, when Occaſion ſerves, to give him to underſtand, that this is only upon Condition, that *Sweden* will conſent thereto; your Majeſty being unwilling to enter upon any Treaty of Peace or Truce, without that King. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, Sire, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *June* 4. 1677.

SIR,

WE receiv'd the Letter which you was pleas'd to ſend us, with the King's Diſpatch of the 26th *ult.* You may ſee by our Anſwer what we have given an Account of to his Majeſty, and we ſhall add, to you, That we judge it expedient, in order to make ſome ſort of Diſtinction for the Holy See, to ſend to compliment the Nuncio, upon his Arrival. He alſo ſent immediately to make us one, by his Auditor, and to acquaint us, That being arriv'd here, and finding Affairs in the Hands of the Ambaſſadors of *England*; he would enter upon no Buſineſs, till he had well concerted it, and particularly with us; and, that there was nothing which he would not be ready to do, for the forwarding of the Work, for which he came hither; provided the Dignity of his Holineſs, and of his Miniſter, would permit him to do it; and that he was alſo determined to notify his Arrival to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, provided they would pay him the Viſit which was due to him: And he deſired us, that we would intercede with them, in order to know, after what manner they would treat him; which we accordingly did, and ſpoke to them on that Affair: But we not only found in them, an Unwillingneſs to comply therewith, but a formal Refuſal, to hold any Correſpondence

with him; telling us, That they had poſitive Orders from *England*, for that purpoſe. And yeſterday, in our uſual Conferences with the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, we ask'd them, How they would carry themſelves to the Nuncio? Who alſo made us Anſwer, That the Ambaſſadors of their Crown, having held no Correſpondence at *Munſter*, with the Nuncio, who was there, they would in like manner have no Communication with this, at *Nimeguen*.

The Nuncio notified to us, That he extremely wiſh'd he could have an Interview with us, in order to concert what he might do in this State of Affairs; but that he could not do it, before his Declaration, which could not be theſe five or ſix Days; intimating to us, by his Auditor, that this would, nevertheleſs, be neceſſary, for the Proſperous Iſſue of Affairs, deſiring, in a particular manner, to be inſtructed and informed by us.

Having conſider'd this matter, and judging it expedient to take in good part, the Truſt which he ſeem'd to repoſe in us; we made no Difficulty to return him an Anſwer, That we would moſt heartily go and ſee him *incognito*; but we were ſo much the leſs induced to do it, becauſe we knew that the Emperor's two Ambaſſadors had been to viſit him in this manner. And indeed, we went to ſee him yeſterday, *incognito*, each of us ſeparately: He expreſs'd to us a great Veneration for the King, declaring, That he would impartially obſerve an Equality in the Negotiations of Peace, and forward them as much as lay in his Capacity, and deſir'd us to aſſiſt him by our Advice. We found him very Honourable and Civil; and alſo it appear'd to us, that he ſpoke to us, with Openneſs of Heart and Generoſity.

Sir,

Sir, We ſend you Two Pacquets of the Marquis *de Fuquiere*, which were deliver'd us by a Courier from the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*. Sir, We are, moſt ſincerely, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *June* 5. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Did not anſwer, the day before yeſterday, your Diſpatches of the 21ſt and 25th *ult* becauſe I had ſcarce time to give an Account of them to his Majeſty, who arriv'd in this Place on Monday laſt, and who has ſince been taken up about divers particular Affairs: He ſees, that you have not yet had the Anſwer of Monſ. *Beverning*, ſince the Journey he made to the *Hague*. The News from *Holland* inform'd us, That there have been great Conferences with Monſieur *Fagel*, of which, without doubt, they will give an Account to the Prince of *Orange*. In the mean while, His Majeſty has approv'd, (to the end that Monſieur *Beverning* may not be ignorant of the facile Methods he has laid down, for a Truce or Ceſſation of Arms in the Seventeen Provinces) that you ſhould impart the ſame to his Secretary.

After his Majeſty had examined the Full Power of the Miniſters-Plenipotentiaries of Prince *Charles*, he found nothing therein, contrary to the Style and Uſual Forms, but the Titles he

there aſſumes, which extend even to the Count of *Provence*: But foraſmuch as the Writing, which is in the Hands of the Mediators, by the Conſent of all the Parties, that the Titles aſſum'd, given, or omitted, cannot be either hurtful or prejudicial, has prevented the Advantage, which Prince *Charles* may take from the Full Power, with which you remain ſatisfied; it does not appear, there is any Difficulty in complying therewith. His Majeſty only judges, That you may take Occaſion from thence, for the Proteſtation which he thought fit you ſhould make, as to the Title of the Duke of *Lorrain*, which he has given in the Paſports: So that, when they ſhall deliver you the Full Power of the Sieurs *Canon* and *Serinchamps*, you may declare in Writing, That you accept of it, with a Proteſt, that conformably to what was agreed upon among them, neither the Titles aſſumed in the Full Powers by Prince *Charles*, nor thoſe which the King has given, in the Paſports he granted to his Miniſters, can be hurtful or prejudicial to his Majeſty.

Gentlemen, in this Manner, you may prevent, by one and the ſame Act, the Advantages which that Prince may take, perhaps, indirectly, in the Aſſembly, from the ſaid Full Powers and Paſports.

The King has been already informed of the Letter which the Elector of *Brandenburg* wrote to the King of *England*; but his Majeſty was very glad to ſee the Copy of it, which you ſent him. Gentlemen, I am, with Reſpect and Reality, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to the King.
Dated *June* 8. 1677.

SIRE,

WE wait every Moment to ſee Monſieur *Beverning*, who has been ſome Days in the Army of the Prince of *Orange*, and is come back from thence to the *Hague*. We ſhall ſpeedily know the Succeſs of his Journey, of which we ſhall give your Majeſty an Account.

The Nuncio has notified his Arrival; and the Emperor's Ambaſſadors have been to viſit him: Afterwards we went to him, all three together, and have alſo receiv'd his Viſit. Foraſmuch as theſe firſt Viſits were only full of Compliments on both ſides, we ſhall not trouble your Majeſty with them. We have not fail'd to aſſure that Nuncio, of your Majeſty's good Intentions for Peace, and for the Tranquillity of Chriſtendom, of the Particular Eſteem you have for his Holineſs's Perſon, and of the Reſpect you bear to him, the Nuncio: He alſo ſignify'd to us, the Obligation which the Pope is under to your Majeſty, to whom he is beholden for his Promotion to the Holy See; and declar'd to us, That for his part, he had receiv'd no ſmall Mark of your Majeſty's Truſt and Favour, in being willing to accept of him here as Nuncio, notwithſtanding he had been at the Emperor's Court. We receiv'd what he told us, and that Freeneſs of Heart which he manifeſted to us, after the manner as we ought; without forgetting, nevertheleſs, That he is an *Italian*, and, that without re-

lying on his fair Proteſtations, we ought only to fix our Judgment on the Steps we ſhould ſee him make.

We have taken Leave of my Lord *Berkley*, who went away yeſterday, to our great Regret: He always appear'd here with a great deal of Conſtancy for your Majeſty's Intereſt, and told us, farther, That he hop'd to do you more Service, in the Account which he ſhould give to the King his Maſter, and to the Duke of *York*, of what we have done for the promoting of the Peace, than he could accompliſh, although he were to continue here much longer: He only intreated us, to write to your Majeſty, to recommend his Son to you. This is the Buſineſs he is moſt concerned for; and deſires nothing for him, but that he may have the Honour to ſerve your Majeſty with Content.

Sire, The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* was here two Days ago, and has caus'd his Arrival to be preceded with a Shew of a very great Expence: Indeed, tho' he has not fall'n, according to the Faſhion of the Country from whence he came, and which he ſerves, to look big in every thing that he does; nevertheleſs, Sire, it muſt be own'd, that he has a very great and ſtately Equipage. Hitherto, we can aſſure your Majeſty, That our Expence has far exceeded that of the other Ambaſſadors, both in our Tables and Equipages; but this Perſon is come after our Liveries are worn out, and we have bore up under the exceſſive Rents of our Houſes for a whole Year: We dare not take the Freedom, farther to explain to your Majeſty, all your Charge: We have inſerted the Particulars of all we know thereof, in a Letter to Monſieur *de Pomponne*, to the end that your Majeſty may ſend us Word, what you would have us do on this Occaſion; ſince, for

our

our parts, we are fully reſolv'd to do our utmoſt, to appear in an Aſſembly, compos'd out of all the Nations of *Europe*, with the Dignity and State, which Ambaſſadors of the firſt and greateſt King in the World, ought to bear. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect,

SIRE, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *June* 8. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may perceive, by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, what we told him concerning my Lord *Berkley*, and his Son: Nevertheleſs, we thought ourſelves oblig'd to tell you alſo, that the ſaid Lord declar'd to us, That he believ'd his Son would ſerve as an Adjutant to the Mareſchal *de Schomberg*, who promis'd him that Poſt; and, that he told him, he ſhould take it up as he went to *Compiegne*; nevertheleſs, he ſeem'd to doubt, whether Monſieur *Schomberg* would make uſe of him. In all appearance, this is an Uneaſineſs of the Young Gentleman, or elſe it proceeds from a Paternal Love, which made him entertain that Apprehenſion, from which we freed him: But in order to give my Lord *Berkley* a perfect Joy, and to induce him, yet more than he is already inclin'd, (if it be poſſible) when he arrives in *England*, to give a full Proof of the King's Intentions for the promoting of Peace; if you think it proper

Sir, to write to Monſieur *Courtin*, to aſſure my Lord, that Care ſhall be taken of his Son; we are perſuaded, that nothing could affect him more.

Sir, We alſo believe it will promote the King's Service, that Monſieur *Courtin* prevail, (if he can) with the Duke of *York*, to charge Monſieur *Hyde* to uſe here the Sentiments of a real Mediator, and not ſuffer his to chime with thoſe of Sir *William Temple*; for we have obſerved that Monſieur *Hyde* is a very honourable Perſon, indeed, but ſomewhat weak in his Intellects; and Sir *William Temple* can, with the greateſt Eaſe, make himſelf Maſter of all Three, by which Means, the King's Intereſts would moſt certainly ſuffer very much. And my Lord *Berkley* ſaid a Fortnight ago to one of us, That in a Conference he had with Sir *William Temple*, wherein he told him, there was no other Remedy to put an end to all the Misfortunes of this War, but a good and ſpeedy Peace; Sir *William Temple* anſwer'd him, That he would die rather than make it, in the preſent Conjuncture of Affairs, wherein *France* had attain'd to ſuch a Height of Power. We wait for the King's Orders, as to the Writings, which our Enemies gave in againſt us: Perhaps, 'tis his Majeſty's Pleaſure that we ſhould have no Regard to them, and that we ſhould declare to the Mediators, That when Propoſals are made to us, which tend to Peace, we ſhould be ready to anſwer them, and that till then, we have nothing to ſay. But if his Majeſty judges it expedient, that we ſhould return Anſwers thereto, (as it is very eaſy to do) and confute them by their own Writings; we intreat you, Sir, in that Caſe, to ſend us Memorials, by which we may proceed. Sir, you are ſenſible, there are many Circumſtances, which do not belong to us, and whereof we are ignorant,

rant, and many Dates to be obſerved, which entirely juſtifie the Progreſs of his Majeſty's Arms.

Sir, You may obſerve, That in the Anſwer we made to the Propoſals of *Spain*, after having explain'd ourſelves, that we would perſiſt in our firſt Demands; we declar'd to them, That we were ready, nevertheleſs, whenſoever that Crown ſhould make reaſonable Propoſals, to hearken to them. This we thought ought to be added, that it might not be notified to the *Spaniards*, in a time when they endeavour to create us Trouble in the Parliament of *England*, that we had in any wiſe excluded them from making Propoſals of Peace.

We durſt not trouble his Majeſty, about the Expence we have been at, till now, tho' it has been very great. You may take an Eſtimate of it from the ſingle Article of the Houſes. We have computed that the Rent of them is augmented to 35 times more than what they were lett for at firſt; and, that we pay in Eight Days time, what was then paid in a Year. The Price of Proviſions, and other things is extremely enhanc'd. In the mean while, the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* is come hither, who has not yet been at any Charge, no more than *Don Pedro Ronquillo*, the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and the Nuncio. This laſt has already ſhewn his Equipage, which is very fine. *Don Pedro Ronquillo* has three Coaches, and a Livery trim'd with Gold and Silver Lace. We do not yet know what thoſe of the Emperor will do, who are to appear very ſpeedily. As for the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, he has Twelve Pages, and Twenty Four Foot-men with Liveries of Gold Lace, beſides Ten as well *Negroes* as *Switſers*. 'Tis ſaid, that his firſt Coach is cover'd with Plates of Silver. He has

with him his Daughter and Son in-Law, who both have Six Pages; ſo that when all this Retinue is together, they make a great Guard. 'Tis aſſur'd, That Monſieur *Balbaſes* has a Revenue of an Hundred and eighty thouſand Crowns; and that his Son-in-Law is yet richer. We give you an exact Account of this Matter, to the end that, when his Majeſty ſhall be informed thereof, he may ſignifie to us, his Intentions more poſitively. We alſo take the Liberty to acquaint you, That notwithſtanding the Deſire we have, to maintain our Embaſſy here, with all the Splendour becoming Ambaſſadors, who have the Honour to repreſent ſo great a King; nevertheleſs, we ſtand in need, that his Majeſty would vouchſafe to aſſiſt us, in the Efforts we make on our ſide, which, without his Help, will not be powerful enough, to put us into the Condition we are deſirous of. We have been told, That the *Swiſſers* and *Heyduks* of Monſieur *Balbaſes*, will march by his Coach with Partizans; but we have no certain Knowledge of it. We have already ſpoke of it to the Nuncio, by reaſon of the Conſequence; ſince, if it were ſo, the other Ambaſſadors would have a Right to have Guards alſo. Sir, We repreſent this Matter to you, with ſo much the more Reaſon, becauſe Count *Ambny*, who has a Revenue of an Hundred Thouſand Crowns, will ſhortly arrive here, with a very great Equipage; and by reaſon that this Aſſembly is going to take a greater Air of Magnificence, than they have hitherto done; wherein we are the only Perſons, who have appear'd here with Pomp. Sir *William Temple*, alſo, with a kind of Inſult, told one of us, Three Days ago, That one of the Allies had declared to him, That the Ambaſſadors of *France* would not conſent to the Article the Mediators had propos'd,

propos'd, which was, that the Ambaſſadors ſhould go only attended by two or three Lackeys, becauſe they would take an occaſion to make their Parade with their Liveries, and their Coaches; and that at this Inſtant, the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* were deſirous to do the like: But foraſmuch as we have been, as we ought to be, above thoſe who have hitherto appear'd; we ſhall likewiſe be ſo, with reſpect to the *Spaniards*, if his Majeſty gives us Orders for that purpoſe, and facilitates the Means. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *June* 11. 1677.

SIRE,

WE give ourſelves the Honour, to ſend Your Majeſty a Letter from the Nuncio. That Miniſter, in his firſt Audience, put into our Hands, the Copy of his Holineſs's Brief, which empowers him to intercede as a Mediator, and another Brief, which relates to us all Three. We have examin'd by ourſelves, thoſe two Briefs, and find therein ſome Difficulties, which appear to us to be prejudicial to Your Majeſty's Right: In the firſt place, in the Power of the Nuncio, in regard that the Emperor is expreſly named therein, and no mention is made of Your Majeſty, but under the Comprehenſive Title of Orthodox Kings and Princes: And in another Brief, the Term of *Præſtantibus viris*, with which he has qualified Two of us, does not appear to us, ſuitable to the Dignity of Your Majeſty's Ambaſſa-

dors. Therefore we judg'd it expedient, to ſpeak of all this Matter to the Nuncio's Auditor, who is a judicious Perſon; and we did it after ſuch a manner, as that the Nuncio is as well ſatisfied with us, as we are with him. Sire, We ſignify'd to his Auditor, That Your Majeſty could not be comprehended under a collective Title, in a Deed, wherein the Emperor is expreſly named: That at *Munſter*, the Ambaſſadors of *France* would not ſuffer, when they went about to include *Spain* in the Treaty which was made there, and drew up the Scheme of it, that it ſhould be inſerted therein, the Emperor, and the Crown'd Heads; but their Imperial, Moſt Chriſtian, and Catholick Majeſties: 'Tis true, that *Spain*, not making the Peace, the Project was not put in Execution. As to the Brief, which relates to us, we did not inſiſt upon it, Sire, for that the ſame was only directed to one of us; nor even becauſe the two others are only comprehended under the Terms, which in *French* ſignify Honourable Perſons; ſince thoſe two Points have only regard to our Private Intereſts: But, forasmuch as Your Majeſty's Dignity may be prejudiced thereby, in caſe, in the Brief directed to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, they ſhould be treated therein after a more honourable manner; we only deſir'd to know, whether he could ſhew us a Copy of the Brief, which was directed to them; or, at leaſt, that he would paſs his Word to us, that the Treatment was equal.

Sire, The Auditor and the Nuncio afterwards found, That we had Reaſon in both of thoſe Objections; and without ſhewing us the Copy of the Brief directed to the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, under Colour that he had not yet deliver'd it to them; (perhaps, becauſe it was

not

not altogether conformable to ours) he offer'd us to cauſe every thing that we had a mind, to be amended, and alſo to give each of us one of them: But we told him, it would be ſufficient to give us one, directed to us all Three, with Titles equal to thoſe which they had given to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors.

As to the Nuncio's Power, he promis'd us alſo to cauſe expreſs Mention to be made of Your Majeſty therein; and, after having paſs'd his Word, not to give his Holineſs's Briefs to the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, and the Catholick King, but to keep them in his Hands, till ours were amended; he gave us a Writing, of which we have hereto annex'd a Copy. He deſir'd the utmoſt Secrecy of us upon this Affair, and did not ſo much as write of it to the Duke *d'Estrées*, becauſe he ſays, Fault may be found at *Rome*, for engaging the Pope ſo formally as he has done; and we on our ſide plainly perceive the Prejudice we may receive thereby, if that Affair ſhould be known to the *Imperialiſts* and *Spaniards*, who would bring ſuch Obſtructions, that it would ſcarce be able to ſucceed.

Sire, We owe this Teſtimony to the Nuncio, That he has ſhew'd himſelf very compliable in all this; and that he has anticipated every thing that we could deſire of him; and that his Auditor has ſought for Methods to facilitate all things, and give us Satisfaction.

Sir *William Temple* told us yeſterday, by way of Converſation, That the King his Maſter had permitted them to give equal Treatment to the Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*, and to grant them the Precedency, and the Title of Excellency: He alſo told us, That they the Ambaſſadors of *England*, had already given Notice thereof to thoſe of *Brandenburg*; and, indeed, yeſterday,

they

they receiv'd a Viſit from them. Foraſmuch as he made us acquainted with this Affair, only by way of Diſcourſe, and without concerting Meaſures with us; we had nothing to do, but to give ear to what he was about to tell us. We ought to add, That he alſo told us, That that which induc'd the King of *England* to make this Step, was what he did in the time of his Reſtauration, when he treated the Three Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*, without any Diſtinction, and when all of them receiv'd in *England* the ſame Honours; that therefore he found it very difficult, to go contrary to his own Act and Deed. We are, with a very great Reſpect, *Sire, &c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *June* 10. 1677.

SIR,

WE do not know what will be done at *Rome*, touching the Declaration of the Nuncio's Power, nor what is the Style of that Court. 'Tis true, that in the time of the two firſt Convocations of the Council of *Trent*, the Direction of it was made to the Emperor, to the King of *France*, by Name, and to other Catholick Princes: That at the third, the Declaration was changed, and the Emperor, and other Catholick Princes inſerted. The Ambaſſadors of *France* complain'd thereof, but they could not maintain their Right in that Point, with more Vigour, than in very many others, ſo that the Superſcription was not amended.

amended. We have no Knowledge of other publick Deeds, wherein the nominating of all Chriſtian Princes was call'd in Queſtion: And, Sir, if you know any, you will do us a great Pleaſure to impart the ſame to us; for the Nuncio intreated us, to give him Examples, to authorize what we deſire. We ſhall not fail, when we return the Powers of the Sieurs *Canon* and *Serinchamps*, which have been communicated to us, to make ſuch Propoſals, as we were enjoin'd by your Diſpatch of the 5th Inſtant

Monſieur *Beverning* arriv'd here Yeſterday in the Evening; we hope ſpeedily to hear ſome News from him.

Sir, This is a Memorial which Sir *Lionel Jenkins* has juſt given us, on the part of Count *Kinsky*, who intreats us to deſire a Paſport, which may be conformable thereto: You will think it, perhaps, ſomewhat large, but we could not excuſe ourſelves from ſending it you, ſuch as it was, written by the Hand of Count *Kinsky*. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *June* 12. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert*, and Count *d'Avaux*; I obſerv'd by your Diſpatch of the 28th *ult.* that the Miniſters of my Enemies, continuing reſolv'd to give their Anſwers in Writing to the firſt Propoſals of Peace, you could not retrain (according to the Orders which you had from me) from declaring, That you would receive them. It would, undoubtedly, be more advantageous,

vantageous, in order to advance the Succeſs of the Negociation, that the Conditions which are to be treated of, ſhould be debated in the Preſence of the Mediators; and that they ſhould commit to writing (as you propos'd) the Subſtance of what ſhould be ſpoken by the Parties. You may, according as you ſhall judge expedient, reſerve to yourſelves, the Liberty of anſwering in this manner; and leave it to the Mediators, to give an Account to the Miniſters of the Allies, of what ſhall be doing in your Conferences; ſo that you may keep to yourſelves, all the Methods of anſwering, as Occaſion ſhall ſerve, either in Writing, or *Viva Voce*.

I have examined the Difficulty, under which you found yourſelves, touching the Propoſal that was made you by the Mediators, to admit of the Pretenſions of the Miniſter of Prince *Charles*, and afterwards to give in your Counterpleas: And I have obſerv'd the ſeveral Overtures you repreſented to me, in order not to allow of the Claims of the ſaid Prince, either by looking upon him meerly as a General of the Emperor's Army, or in improving the third Article of the Treaty of *Munſter*, which oblig'd the Emperor to act no otherwiſe, than amicably, in the Difference which was at that time, upon the Account of *Lorrain*.

Having granted my Paſports to that Prince's Miniſters, it appears, that I cannot exclude him from producing his Claims in the Aſſembly; and as to the 49th Article of the Treaty of *Munſter*, it ſeems to have ſo near a Relation to the Debate, which was at that time touching *Lorrain*, that I do not think I can make uſe of it in the preſent Affair. This would furniſh my Enemies with a Pretence, to ſtop all the Negotiation, till that

that Difficulty was remov'd; and the Conduct which I have hitherto obſerved, is a ſufficient Demonſtration, That I ſhun all thoſe which are in any wiſe capable of retarding the Work of Peace. Therefore, foraſmuch as I am willing to continue to act after the ſame manner, my Intention is not, that you ſhould deny the Mediators, to admit of the Pretenſions of the Miniſters of *Lorrain*; but it is, at the ſame time, that you ſhould not yield to exchange your Counter-Pleas, at that Inſtant. Foraſmuch as they are willing to be at Liberty to make their Demands, you ought alſo to have the Choice of anſwering thereto; and the Office of the Mediators is only to receive the Writings which are put into their Hands, at the time when the Parties return theirs. So that you may tell them, That you are not averſe to hear from them, what are the Propoſals of Prince *Charles*, nevertheleſs, without obliging yourſelves, to notifie Yours to them, but when you ſhall judge it expedient. Foraſmuch as it may happen, there may be ſome Foundation in the Examples, which they may ſhew you, that my Ambaſſadors in *Poland* have given the Precedency to the ſecond Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*; you ought not to inſiſt upon what has happen'd without the Empire. Say, That you either queſtion it, or, that you are not inform'd thereof, and keep only to what has been practiſed within *Germany*. He of you, who was at the Dyet of *Frankfort*, may be a good Evidence of the Cuſtom, which is farther confirm'd by the Mareſchal *de Gramont*, who was my Ambaſſador there, and who was the ſame in the Treaty of *Munſter*: It is to no purpoſe, that the Miniſters of *Brandenburg* affirm, That their Maſter had no Ambaſſadors there: Several other Electors of the Empire had theirs there; and the Cuſtom was never

never call'd in Queſtion, That my Ambaſſadors ſhould give the Precedency to the Firſt, and take it of the Second: Neither are there any Grounds, for what the Miniſters of *Brandenburg* alledge, That their Maſter has other Titles, beſides that of Elector: Of all thoſe he is poſſeſs'd of, this is certainly the moſt eminent; and if they would advance any others, they ought, at leaſt, to nominate what they may be. Therefore, do not depart from the juſt Claim, which you have hitherto had, upon that Account; and far from acknowledging, that the Emperor's Letters can ſerve to eſtabliſh this new Rank, for the Miniſters of Electors; make uſe of them to ſhew, that I may well give Rules, but cannot receive them from any Perſons upon Earth.

I have already ſent you Word, That you may take occaſion, from the Writing which was given by the Mediators, That the Titles taken or given, cannot be hurtful or prejudicial to the Parties; not only to proteſt againſt thoſe which Prince *Charles* has aſſumed, in his Full Powers, for his Miniſters, but even againſt thoſe which I have given in my Paſſports: By that means, you will put them out of a Capacity, in the View of the whole Aſſembly, of taking any Advantage from the Title of the Duke of *Lorrain*, as well from that which he has given himſelf, as that which I granted him, in order to remove the Difficulties, which the juſt Refuſal I had made, might occaſion in the Aſſembly: For the reſt, I pray God, &c.

Written at *Verſailles* the 10th of *June*, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *June* 12. 1677.

Gentlemen,

SINCE the King's Diſpatch was written, his Majeſty ſaw that which you were pleas'd to write to me, the firſt inſtant, and your Diſpatch of the 4th. The former only ſhews his Majeſty, That the Aſſembly is augmented at *Nimeguen*, and that you have receiv'd the Viſits of the Miniſters of the Elector *Palatine*, and Prince *Charles*. The latter was accompanied with the Anſwers which the Miniſters of the Allies put into the Hands of the Mediators: They are as unreaſonable as their firſt Demands; and without doubt, their Deſign is not to attain to Peace, if they do not take other Meaſures. His Majeſty thinks thoſe Anſwers ſo little worth taking Notice of, that he approves you have only returned verbal ones to the Mediators, and did not think it expedient, That you ſhould give them others in writing. Gentlemen, This is all that I can add to his Majeſty's Diſpatch; and I am only to aſſure you, That no body can be with more Sincerity than I am, Gentlemen, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *June* 15. 1677.

SIR,

'TIS a long time ago, ſince we expected, by the Return of Monſieur *Beverning*, an Overture for a Negotiation more effectual than any we have hitherto made. However, he arriv'd on *Friday* in the Evening, and we have not yet had any News from him; which makes us believe, That he did not find the Prince of *Orange* well diſpoſed to a Peace; or, that the Hopes which our Enemies have too vainly founded upon the Parliament of *England*, which, 'tis ſaid, is prorogued, ſtill put off from us the Viſit and Anſwer which that Miniſter ſhould make us: Nevertheleſs, we think it convonient for the King's Service, not to expreſs too much Eagerneſs to him, in order to give him no cauſe to believe, That the Rumours, which the Allies ſpread about here, of the Efforts that all *Germany* is to make againſt *France*, are capable of making his Majeſty recede from his juſt Claims.

The Viſit which the Ambaſſadors of *England* paid us yeſterday, forwards our Negotiation no farther, than the Return of Monſieur *Beverning*. They only ask'd us, Whether we were ſatisfy'd with the Power of the Preſident *Canon*. And we promis'd them to carry our Conſent to morrow; which we would give them in Writing, with our Proteſtation, after the manner as you order'd us.

Sir

Sir *William Temple* told us of an Affair afterwards, which we can ſcarce conceive; which is, That a Miniſter from the Duke of *Hanover*, whoſe Name he would not mention to us, did, ſix Weeks ago, put into his Hands in Writing, the Claims of the Duke his Maſter, importing, That the Treaty by him made in 1675, with the King of *Denmark*, the Elector of *Brandenburg*, and the Biſhop of *Munſter*, for the Partition of the Duchy of *Bremen*, may be confirm'd by the Treaty which ſhall intervene: That he, Sir *William Temple*, told that Miniſter, That 'twas requiſite a Full Power ſhould be procured, with the ſame Treaty of which he makes mention; but, that inſtead of following that Advice, he wrote to him, and deſir'd him to maintain the ſaid Claims in this Aſſembly. We ask'd the ſaid Mediator ſeveral Queſtions, to get a little more Inſight into that Affair; but he plainly aſſur'd us, he knew no more of it; and, Sir, we own, that we know not what Judgment to make of a pretended Treaty made by that Prince with the Enemies of *France*, and for the Partition of the Spoils of our Allies, in a time when his Troops ſubſiſt only upon his Majeſty's Expence.

In particular Viſits, which I the Mareſchal *d'Eſtrades* gave the Nuncio laſt *Saturday*, and I *d'Avaux* yeſterday, he ſhew'd us a great deal of Earneſtneſs, for the promoting of the Peace: He alſo gave us Hopes, That in a ſhort time, the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* would make reaſonable Propoſals; and, that if they are not in the Strain that could be wiſh'd, for the Concluſion of a good Peace; at leaſt, they may give the ſaid Nuncio, an Occaſion effectually to interpoſe his Offices, to oblige the Parties to abate their Demands; and, that by making a little Advance on both ſides, they may ſhortly be agreed. What

Step

Step ſoever the Miniſters of *Spain* may make for that end, we ſhall advance no others in it, than to inform his Majeſty thereof; and we ſhall firmly adhere to our firſt Propoſals, till we have receiv'd his Orders. The ſaid Nuncio alſo expreſs'd to us, a great Deſire he had to furniſh us, and the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, with facile Methods to ſee one another; and we believe, that he will endeavour to diſpoſe the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* to notify his Viſit to us, a little before he gives Notice thereof to the Ambaſſadors of the other Kings, in order to give us Occaſion, to deſire of him the firſt Audience. That Marquis was reſolved to begin, on *Thurſday*, to diſcharge that Ceremony; but the Claim which the Emperor's Ambaſſadors have to be viſited, before thoſe of *England*, tho' Mediators, has rais'd another Difficulty, which cannot be eaſily determined. The Nuncio ſeeks out all manner of Expedients for that end, and has declar'd himſelf to one of us, That he believ'd, the beſt Method would be, that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, ſhould viſit, without the Rank, the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, as being of the ſame Family, and that afterwards he ſhould go ſee the Nuncio, then the Ambaſſadors of *England*, as Mediators, after which he ſhould pay us what is due to our Character. We do not yet know, what will be the Sentiments and Reſolution of the King of *England*, upon that Point. As for what concerns us, we do not hitherto ſee any Inconveniency in the former Expedient: But if the Emperor's Ambaſſadors do not acquieſce therein; and, that being deſirous to be viſited immediately after the Nuncio, the Ambaſſadors of *England* ſhould not oppoſe it; we ſhould have Cauſe to complain, and we could not (as far as it appears to us) without prejudicing his Majeſty's Dignity, conſent to be viſited after

ter them; becauſe, ſetting aſide the Privilege of Mediators, which is, to be viſited firſt, they would no longer have a Rank in that Ceremony, but as Ambaſſadors of *England*; and then we ſhould have a Right to precede them. To tell you the Truth, we do not perceive that at *Munſter* they had the ſame Deference for the Mediators, as they had in the Aſſembly of *Cologn*, and in this; on the contrary, we ſee that Signior *Contarini*, the *Venetian* Ambaſſador, refus'd to be preſent at the Proceſſion, which was made there, becauſe he knew, That that Rank would be diſputed with him, by the Electoral Miniſters: But it belongs to the Ambaſſadors of *England*, to maintain what has been eſtabliſh'd here, in their Favour; and after having encouraged them therein, we ſhall endeavour to take ſuch Meaſures, as are moſt agreeable to his Majeſty's Dignity.

Monſieur *Duker* came to tell us, That in the firſt Viſit he made to the Nuntio, he had receiv'd from him Aſſurances of a moſt ſincere Deſire to procure Satisfaction for the Biſhop of *Strasburg*, and the Liberty of Prince *William*: That he had alſo diſcours'd him about every Thing he had done on that Affair, in the time of the late Pope, and the Promiſe he had obtain'd of the Emperor, to put the ſaid Prince *William* into his Holineſs's Hands: That indeed, it was revok'd, during the Vacancy of the Holy See; but that if the Nuncio *Bonniſi* would act after the ſame Manner, as he *Bevilaqua* had done, he hop'd that his Imperial Majeſty would not do leſs for Pope *Innocent* XI. than he had done for his Predeceſſor. He added, That the Nuncio gave him to underſtand, that the Inſtances of *England* would not obtain of the Emperor, what they were deſirous of; but, that if we made ours to both Intentions, they would give Occaſion to him, the Nuncio, to

ſpeak

ſpeak of it to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors. Foraſmuch as we have no Orders to do it to the Nuncio, we ſhall wait for thoſe which his Majeſty ſhall pleaſe to give us.

The ſaid Nuncio has importuned us, by his Auditor, to ſhew him ſome Extracts of Letters, of Meſſieurs *d'Avaux* and *de Servien* at *Munſter*, which mention the Expedient that was made uſe of there, by the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, as to the Viſits they were to make, as well to thoſe of *France*, as to thoſe of *Spain*; Having viſited the latter, without Rank, as being of the ſame Family, and before they ſaw the Nuncio; immediately after whom, they viſited thoſe of *France*. We do not haſten to give the ſaid Nuncio the Information which he deſires; not judging, that 'twill comport with the King's Service, for us to meddle with that Difference: But, foraſmuch as the ſaid Nuncio gave us to underſtand, at the ſame time, that the Biſhop of *Gurk*, firſt Ambaſſador of the Emperor, arriving here, might take the ſame Meaſures, and viſit us immediately after the Mediators; we intreat you, Sir, to notify to us, whether we may acquieſce therein, as the Ambaſſadors of *France* did, at *Munſter*, who by that means kept the firſt Rank. And foraſmuch as the Nuncio does not find in *Victorio Siri*, That Pope *Alexander* VII. who was then Nuncio *Chiſi*, was effectually contented therewith, and receiv'd the Viſit in that Order; he is very deſirous, for his Juſtification at *Rome*, that if you have any Memorials relating thereto, Sir, you would be pleas'd to give them to us. The ſame Auditor told us, That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* will have no arm'd Men about his Coach. For the reſt, Sir, His Retinue will be as numerous and magnificent, as we have already written to you. We can alſo be reſponſible to you, for

for the Fineneſs of the Liveries, as having ſeen them. We are,

SIR, *&c.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the Writing of our Letter, Monſieur *Beverning* ſent to make us a Compliment, by the Secretary of the Embaſſy of *Holland*, and to tell us, That he would come and viſit us, to morrow; and, that he only deferr'd the doing of it, by reaſon of the continual Viſits and Conferences of his Allies. We believe, Sir, that you will not be offended with this little Poſtſcript.

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*
Dated *June* 17. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King has ſeen the Letter which you wrote to him, the 8th inſtant, and the particular Account you gave him, in mine, of the Equipages with which the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* are preparing to appear at *Nimeguen*. That which his Majeſty has chiefly had regard to therein, are the *Heydukes* and *Swiſſers*, armed with *Partizans*, who are (as you ſignify) to attend the Coach of the Marquis *de Los Balbaſes*: Foraſmuch as they are to ſerve him as Guards, his Majeſty has put off his Reſolution, whether you ſhall have any with he appears after that manner. I am apt to believe, That he will reſolve, at the ſame time, whether it conduces to his Service, that you

you ſhould augment the Charge you are at, which is already ſo magnificent and great; without doubt, in that Caſe, he will give you wherewithal to do it.

I charge myſelf only with the Receipt of your ſingle Letter of the 8th, tho' I have receiv'd that of the 11th. But becauſe the Buſineſs of the Feſtival of this Day, hinder'd his Majeſty from ſeeing them this Morning; I ſhall not, before the next Diſpatch, notify to you his Sentiments, touching the Obſervations you have made upon the Full Power of Monſieur *Bevilaqua*, and the Brief which was deliver'd to you; The ſame are ſo juſt and reaſonable, that they will, undoubtedly, be approv'd of by his Majeſty. They proceeded before from that Miniſter, and we have reaſon to be ſatisfied with the Sincerity with which he has comply'd with your Arguments.

The Zeal my Lord *Berkley* has always manifeſted to maintain a ſtrict Amity between the King of *France* and the King his Maſter, ſhould make him be miſs'd at *Nimeguen*; but there would be freſh Cauſe to find fault with it, if as you fear, Sir *William Temple* ſhould take the ſame Authority over Monſ *Hyde*, as he has had hitherto over Sir *Lionel Jenkins*. I have wrote to Monſieur *Courtin*, conformably to your Advice, to cauſe him to ſpeak of it to the Duke of *York*, and I ſent him word, at the ſame time, that he ſhould tell my Lord *Berkley*, the Satisfaction his Majeſty has in all his Conduct, and the Pleaſure he had to ſee his Son ſerve in his Armies.

Gentlemen, You have already obſerved, that his Majeſty did not think it Expedient, that you ſhould anſwer the Invectives, rather than the New Propoſals, of the Miniſters of the Allies. The Peace cannot be treated of by theſe ſorts of Writings;

Writings; 'tis requiſite to proceed to Fact, and Propoſals more reaſonable than thoſe which they have pretended to make hitherto.

In the mean time, what can be expected from the Mediation of Sir *William Temple*, if he perſiſts in the Diſcourſe which was reported to you, and if he has declared himſelf, that he will not ſubſcribe the Peace, in the Condition to which the Affairs of *Spain* are, at this time, reduc'd?

'Tis to be believ'd, That Monſieur *Beverning* will produce more reaſonable Sentiments by his Journey.

The Prince of *Orange*'s Army makes no Figure yet in *Flanders*. That of Prince *Charles* makes a better on the ſide of *Germany*. He has paſs'd the *Seille*, and is only ſeparated from the Mareſchal *de Crequi* by a Wood; but in all Appearance, the Scarcity of Proviſions which he is always oblig'd to draw out of *Tryers*, will oblige him very ſhortly to retire, and very probably to repaſs into *Alſatia*. I am, Gentlemen, with all Eſteem, and Sincerity, entirely at your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *June* 18. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Viſit which we receiv'd yeſterday, from Meſſieurs *Beverning* and *Haeren*, does not anſwer the Hopes we had conceived from the great Haſte wherewith the former went to the Prince of *Orange* and the States General, to know their Sentiments, as to the Propoſals we made him. They told us, That the ſaid

States have receiv'd, with great Joy, the Teſtimonies of your Majeſty's Diſpoſition, to reſtore your former Amity to them, by the Advances we made to them, on your part, for the Re-eſtabliſhment of a good Commerce; that it was only incumbent upon them to deſire, as to this Point, that you would reduce the Duties laid upon the Merchandizes, which their Country produces, if not to the ſame Foot as they were in 1632, at leaſt, to ſuch a Degree, that they might be eaſily born, and not make a tacit Prohibition of their Traffick, as does the laſt Tariff, which charges their Pieces of Cloth with 80 Duties, which is, ſay they, one half of their Value.

Secondly, That your Majeſty would be pleas'd to ſuppreſs, in favour of the States General, the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton, foraſmuch as they propoſe to put a Stop, on their part, to the Impoſt which they were oblig'd to eſtabliſh reciprocally upon your Subjects; and ſince the Arguments which they laid down to us, are declar'd, at large, in the Memorial they gave us, of which we ſend your Majeſty a Copy, we ſhall not enlarge farther on it in this Letter, nor on the Anſwers which we returned them, as to thoſe two Points, which ſcarce add to what we have already given ourſelves the Honour to write about it to your Majeſty, nor to the Obſervations we made heretofore, as to the firſt Articles of Commerce which they preſented to us. They afterwards told us, that foraſmuch as that Treaty of Commerce had no relation to the Intereſt of their Allies, in favour of whom they do not deſign to ſtipulate the ſame Advantages as your Majeſty ſhould be pleas'd to grant to the United Provinces, they may thence agree ſeparately, and make mention thereof, in the General Treaty which ſhall intervene, only by a ſingle Act.

That

That with regard to the other Points, which may come into a General Treaty, the Satisfaction of the Prince of *Orange* ought to be one of the Chief of them; and that he believ'd there were good Grounds to demand the Reſtitution of the Principality of *Orange*, in the manner wherein he had explain'd himſelf thereon, by his firſt Propoſal; That, however, if Reaſon of State did not permit your Majeſty to re-eſtabliſh a Port in the Heart of your Kingdom, they hoped you would have the Generoſity to grant to a Prince, whoſe Anceſtors have all deſerv'd ſo well of *France*, a reaſonable Equivalent for all the Loſſes, which he ſuſtain'd, during his Minority, in the demoliſhing of that Place. We gave them to underſtand, that if the Prince of *Orange* really deſired a Peace, and your Majeſty's Favour, he ought not to demand things ſo remote from Reaſon, and a Cuſtom eſtabliſh'd by all the Treaties of Peace, which does not allow of Reſtitution of Land, or immoveable Goods, Taken or Confiſcated from any of the Parties or their Adherents; but in the Condition, that the ſaid Goods are found, and, that the Recompence which the Prince of *Orange* may claim for paſt Loſſes, ought to be demanded of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, whom he has ſo well ſerv'd, and not of *France*, whom he has endeavour'd to weaken by all manner of Ways; That when he ſhould do as much for your Majeſty's Intereſts as he has lately done, and now actually does, for *Spain*, he ſhould plainly ſee that you would recompenſe him more magnificently than any other Prince upon the Earth; but that, at preſent, the matter in Hand was only to conclude a Peace, and make it upon reaſonable Terms. We believ'd, That after having mention'd what relates to Commerce, and the Satisfaction of the Prince of *Orange*, they would

have made us ſome other Inſtance for the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht*, with its Dependencies, and, that they would alſo have preſs'd us upon that Barrier, without which they have ſo often declared they could not find any Security in a Treaty; but they contented themſelves with putting into our Hands the Writing, a Copy whereof we ſend to your Majeſty, which contains all the Articles which they would have inſerted, in favour of the States General, in the General Treaty which ſhall be made here; in which Memorial your Majeſty will ſee, that they demand the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht*; but, foraſmuch as they were about to break up afterwards, without making any mention to us, either of that Barrier, or of their Allies, we deſired them to explain to us after what manner they deſign'd to treat with us; That if they were willing to promote their Intereſts equally with thoſe of *Spain*, we would anſwer all the reaſonable Propoſals they ſhould make, both for themſelves and their Allies; That if they would treat only for themſelves with the Reſerve, which they told us, never to come to a Concluſion, till their Allies were entirely ſatisfied, who, indeed, foraſmuch as we have reaſon to believe by their Demands, do not ſincerely deſire Peace, it would be very inſignificant to ſolicite a Reſolution from your Majeſty, upon the freſh Inſtances which they made us on the part of the States General, ſince, according to our Opinion they ought to be more or leſs favourable, according to the Diſpatch or Slowneſs they ſhould make appear in re-entring into an Alliance with your Majeſty; and if the Obſtinacy of their Allies ſhould oblige them to make a Separate Peace, it would be juſt according to our Opinion, to render it more advantageous for them, than it would be if it were General. They

reply'd

reply'd to us, That if once we were agreed together, they ſhould have more Credit with their Allies, in order to bring them to Reaſon; That they had already done as much as was poſſible for that end; but, that he ought alſo to aſſiſt them by making Demands leſs prejudicial to *Spain*: We told them, that if the Juſtice of our Demand had need to be ſupported by Examples, *Spain* would furniſh us with very many, and among the reſt, thoſe of *Ferdinand* V. King of *Arragon*, of the Emperor *Charles* V. and his Son *Philip* II. who have retain'd, by ſeveral Treaties of Peace, or Truce, the Kingdoms of *Naples*, *Navarre*, and *Arragon*, together with the Duchy of *Milan*, and the Sovereignty of the Earldoms of *Flanders*, *Artois*, *Liſle* and *Tournay*, which they uſurped from the Kings *Charles* VIII. *Lewis* XII. *Francis* I. *Henry* II. and *Henry le Grand*; That God in his Juſtice had vouchſafed to recompenſe *France* by this War, for part of the Loſſes which ſhe has ſuſtain'd in Ages paſt; and, that it would not be reaſonable ſhe ſhould voluntarily deprive herſelf of the Favours of Heaven, or purchaſe the Publick Tranquillity out of an exceſſive Zeal, in ſacrificing Part of the Profit which ſhe ſhould reap from the Dangers ſhe has undergone in the Perſon of your Majeſty, and moreover, from 200 Millions of Gold, which you have ſpent, together with the Blood of your braveſt Subjects; That your Enemies never ſet this Example heretofore, when they had the Advantage; That as they expreſs, even at this time, ſuch a Reſolution and Obſtinacy to continue a War, which cannot but be unfortunate to them, it would be in ſome ſort infamous for our Nation, if in Proſperity, ſhe had not as much Conſtancy as they, in the midſt of ſo many Diſgraces; That they had already ſufficiently known, by the Conqueſts which your

Majeſty made, during the Months of *March* and *April*, how advantageous it would be for them to acquieſce with our firſt Propoſals; and, that if they did not accept them very ſpeedily, God might puniſh them with the Loſs of *Sicily*, and, perhaps, by a Revolution of the whole Kingdom of *Naples*, which ſeem'd to be unable to bear the Yoke of their Dominion any longer; Monſieur *Everning* agreed with all that we were able to ſay on this Affair, and 'tis ſufficiently apparent to us, that if *Spain* concurr'd with his Sentiments, we ſhould very ſoon find Means to attain to a good Peace.

As to all this, Sire, 'tis neceſſary, that your Majeſty would be pleas'd to notify to us, whether it is conducive to the Intereſt of your Affairs, to advance the Negotiation with the Ambaſſadors of the States General, on the Condition they demand, which is, that our Treaty ſhould only take Place when their Allies are ſatisfy'd; or whether it is more expedient, in order to oblige them to recede from that Condition, to make them no Anſwer, ſo long as they will not adhere to it, but by the way of the Mediators. In the mean time, Sire, if we may take the Freedom to tell your Majeſty our Opinion of it, we believe it would be for your Service, to agree, ſo ſoon as we can, with the ſaid Ambaſſadors of the States General, namely, with regard to the Treaty of Commerce, by re-eſtabliſhing that of 1660. in its firſt State, and granting likewiſe, if it be poſſible, the Reduction of Duties laid ſince upon Cloth, and other Merchandizes of *Holland*; nevertheleſs, without depriving your Majeſty of the Liberty to advance or diminiſh them according as the Good of your Affairs ſhall require; and if you do not promiſe the Suppreſſion of 50 *Sols per* Ton, to agree, at leaſt, upon ſuch a Medium

and

and Abatement in the Tax, as may in ſome Meaſure ſatisfy them as to that Point.

As for *Maſtricht*, if your Majeſty thinks it expedient, we may give them to underſtand, that if they treat with all their Allies, they ought not to expect the Reſtitution of it, without providing for your Majeſty an Equivalent of like Importance and Advantage, as is that Place, and its Dependencies; but, that if (their Allies refuſing to make fair Offers) the ſaid States ſhould prefer a Separate Peace, before the Continuation of a miſerable War, you would on that Conſideration give them up that Place, either for the particular Uſe of the Prince of *Orange*, or for that of the United Provinces. If your Majeſty is alſo willing, that in this Caſe, ſomething ſhould be ſtipulated of them, either in favour of *Sweden*, or for the proper Intereſts of *France*, we will endeavour to obtain it. But to conclude, by this Proviſional Treaty, we ſhall put the States General in a Capacity to conclude Peace with your Majeſty at every Turn, and the juſt Apprehenſion which your Enemies may have from it will induce them, according to all Appearance, to ſeek for Peace with much more Earneſtneſs than they have done hitherto. Your Majeſty will rectify our Judgments by your Orders, and we ſhall omit nothing that lies in our Power to execute them with a profound reſpect. SIRE, *&c.*

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *June* 18. 1677.

SIR,

THE King's Diſpatch, and yours of the 12*th* inſtant, containing only an Anſwer to ours of the 28*th ult.* 1*ſt* and 4*th* inſtant, and an Information of his Majeſty's Sentiments as to our Doubts, we ſhall content ourſelves to inform you of the Receipt of them by this Poſt, and to tell you, that we will punctually put in Execution what is order'd us therein. We have even already done it with Regard to Prince *Charles*, having ſent to the Mediators the Proteſtation, a Copy whereof you will meet with here, which is entirely conformable to what you was pleas'd, Sir, to write to us of it. Sir *William Temple*, into whoſe Hands it was deliver'd, appeared very much ſurpriz'd thereat, and told one of our Secretaries who carried it to him, that he would communicate it to the Allies; but that he did not believe, that the Act which he ſign'd heretofore with his Collegues, importing, that the Titles aſſumed or omitted by the Parties, can neither be hurtful or prejudicial, could have any retroactive Effect for the Paſports granted a long time before.

As to the manner of treating for the future, the Nuncio has given us Hopes that the Allies will conform to ours, by contenting themſelves to utter, *Viva Voce*, what they think capable to forward

ward the Negotiations, leaving it to the Wiſdom of the Mediators, to digeſt the Subſtance of it in Writing, without the Mixture of any provoking Terms.

The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* has not yet notified his Arrival, which gives us cauſe to believe, that he has not been able, hitherto, to overcome the Obſtinacy of Count *Kinsky*, who is very captious.

The Miniſters of *Spain* expreſs an earneſt Deſire to ſee us, and to hold Conferences with us. They have already notified the ſame to us, both by the Mediators and the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*; neither do we think we ought to put off this Interview, tho' we expect no great Advantage from it. This, Sir, is all we have to add to the Letter which we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King; and nothing remains, but that we aſſure you of the Reſpect, wherewith we are entirely at your Service.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the Writing of our Letter, the Mediators brought us the Scheme of the Treaty, which the Ambaſſadors of the States put into their Hands, without telling them that they had given us a Copy of it before; therefore, Sir, we have nothing as to that Point to add to what is contain'd in our Diſpatch to his Majeſty.

They alſo told us, that the Allies had deſired of them Copies of the Proteſtation we made againſt the Full Powers of Prince *Charles*; but, that they were not willing to give it them, without our Conſent, which we did not think proper to refuſe; but, foraſmuch as this Affair may have ſome Effect, we intreat, you, Sir, to let us know-

whether, conformably to our first Instructions, we may not make mention of the Protestation which Monsieur *Ruvigny* made upon this Account, at the Court of the King of *Great Britain*, in Case they object to us, that that which we have newly made, cannot have any retroactive Effect, as to the Passports granted by the King above a Year ago, to the Ministers of the said Prince.

Sir, You may see by the Memorial hereto annex'd, which was presented to us by Monsr. *Duker*, that he questions, whether he may presume to acknowledge that the Bishop of *Strasburg* is in the Alliance, and under the Protection of the King; he seem'd to us to have a mind to temporize, if he can possibly, till he receives fresh Orders from his Master, tho we have always spoke of him to the Mediators, as an Ally of his Majesty; and notwithstanding we have given the said Deputy to understand, that our Enemies may gain an Advantage by that Uncertainty; if you believe, Sir, as well as we, that 'tis conducive to the King's Service to put a stop to it, you may, if you please, communicate your Sentiments of it to the said Bishop of *Strasburg*, to the end that he may dispatch agreeable Orders to the said Sieur *Duker*.

LETTER

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur Colbert.

Dated *June* 18. 1677.

SIR,

WE give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, what was told us yeſterday, by the Ambaſſadors of the States General, on the Affair of the Treaty of Commerce, the Advancement of which they proſecute; and, foraſmuch as the Inſtructions we ſtand in need of, that we may do nothing in this matter to the Prejudice of his Majeſty's Affairs, ought to be given us by you, we thought ourſelves oblig'd to ſend you the Memorial which the ſaid Miniſters have put into our Hands, which ſo clearly urges the principal Reaſons, wherewith they ſupport their Demands, that nothing remains for us to add thereto, but the Aſſurances of Reſpect, with which we are,

SIR, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *June* 22. 1677.

SIR,

SINCE our laſt Diſpatch, the Nuncio ſent to tell us, by his Auditor, that he could aſſure us, that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* had given him all manner of Power to adjuſt the Affair of the firſt Viſit to our Satisfaction, and, that he could ſay, that it was, at preſent, his Buſineſs to do it in ſuch a manner, that we might have Notice of it in good time, and, that it might be no trouble to you; but, that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* deſir'd not to ſeparate himſelf in his Viſits from *Don Ronquillo* and *Chriſtin*, and that he propos'd to him for an Expedient to put into the Hands of the Nuncio, a Writing which he would ſign, whereby he ſhould oblige himſelf to produce within two Months, their Full Power conformable to his, with the Title of Ambaſſador, and yield by his Promiſe, that the Honours which ſhall be paid them, ſhall be null, and as if they had not happen'd, in caſe he fails to make Satisfaction therein, in two Months time, of which he ſaid he was ſo well aſſur'd, that he was about to ſay, that the Court of *Madrid* had referr'd it to his Arbitration, to make him Ambaſſador or no; not thinking he would have them for his Collegues; but that after having ſeen them, and being ſatisfy'd with them, he would not put them out of Countenance by hindring them from being Ambaſſadors: That he had deſired the Nuncio,

as

as a Mediator, to agree with this Expedient upon Condition of the Fidelity and Security which he would give him of it in Writing, whereby he would conſent that a Copy thereof ſhould be given him, ſign'd by him in favour to, and for the Advancement of, the Negotiations: And the Auditor told us, that the Nuncio relying upon his Promiſes, and much more upon the Writing of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, undertook to cauſe a Duplicate of it to be made by the Mediators of *England*, if we accept it. The Nuncio has confirmed the ſame thing to us, in a Viſit which he has paid us.

Sir, We have made anſwer to the Auditor, to tell the Nuncio, that we cannot remedy the Powers of *Don Ronquillo* and *Chriſtin*, nor cauſe them to be acknowledg'd Ambaſſadors, if they were not ſuch; That the ſame Matter was propos'd formerly by the Mediators of *England*, upon a like Promiſe made by *Don Ronquillo*, to produce another Power beſides his own with the Character of Ambaſſador in Six Weeks Time, inſtead whereof he had four Months to provide the Power; ſo that, if he has not got it, 'tis his own Fault; that all we could do was to acquaint the King with it, and to expect his Majeſty's Orders thereupon; and, that in the mean time, the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* being an Ambaſſador, and diſpoſed, as he had given us an Aſſurance, to yield us what appertain'd to us, might declare himſelf when he pleas'd; and, that we would treat with him with all convenient Regularity. We are, *&c.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the Writing of our Letter, the Nuncio notified to us, Sir, that he has caus'd two Expe-

dients

dients to be propos'd to the Miniſters of *Spain*; one, that they would ſtay a Fortnight before they gave Notice of their Arrival, and till we had an Anſwer from the Court; the other, That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* alone ſhould make him a Viſit, and his Collegues tarry till their Full Power was arriv'd with the Title of Ambaſſador; We could hardly conſent to the firſt Expedient, becauſe it look'd as if we expected Orders contrary to the firſt that we receiv'd. As to the ſecond, altho' one of the Ambaſſadors of *England* inſinuated to us, that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* is qualified only with Plenipotentiary at *Nimeguen*; nevertheleſs, for aſmuch as the ſaid Ambaſſador added, that he would not ſcruple to give him the Title of Excellency, and the Precedency, and ſince this was alſo the Opinion of the Nuncio, we acquieſced therewith; and ſo much the rather, becauſe there is in his Power a Colour for treating him as Ambaſſador, ſince the King of *Spain* declares, that he ſends the ſaid Marquis *de los Balbaſes* his Ambaſſador Extraordinary to *Germany*, and till an Ambaſſador be return'd to his Maſter, the Honours due to that Character, cannot be refus'd him. 'Tis true, Sir, that as little Concern as they had to raiſe a Scruple about him, it would be very juſt to ſay, that the Function of Ambaſſador in *Germany* was ceas'd the Moment that he enter'd into another by his Arrival at *Nimeguen*, with the ſole Title of Plenipotentiary; but foraſmuch as out of all the Miniſters of the Allies, we viſit only the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, if we alſo refuſe to ſee the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, upon Reaſons which are not approv'd either by the Mediators, or any one Ambaſſador, the ſaid Allies might ſay, that we have a Deſign only to treat with the Ambaſſadors of the States to draw them off from their Side, and would have juſt

Grounds

Grounds to make lively Inſtances to them, that they might forbear ſeeing us. However, Sir, we juſt now heard that the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* are not yet agreed among themſelves, and know not what Propoſal to accept of, and whether they ought to ſeparate the Intereſts of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* from the others.

The Nuncio hopes to give us a poſitive Anſwer by to morrow; but ſince it may happen that this Affair may take up a long time, and we have opportunity to receive Orders from Court, we deſire you, Sir, to be pleas'd to notify to us, as ſoon as poſſible, the King's Intentions as to the Propoſal which we are to agree with, either in caſe that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* is willing to be viſited ſeparately, or that neither he nor his Collegues can obtain, during the whole courſe of the Negotiation, no other Character than that of Plenipontentiary, which is an Expedient that the Court of *Madrid* may make good uſe of, in order to avoid all Competition with us. If this Affair be decided ſooner, we will not cloſe with any Propoſal which may be contrary to the King's Orders, or prejudicial to the Character, with which his Majeſty has honour'd us.

The Nuncio's Auditor came again to tell us, Sir, That the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* propoſed an Expedient, in caſe that we would accept of it; which is, that they will ſend to morrow Morning, all three together, to give notice of their Arrival, as well to the Mediators as to all the other Ambaſſadors, and that in the Compliment which they will make uſe of, they will deſire, that the Viſit which they will vouchſafe to make them, may be deferr'd till their Full Power be arrived: That in this manner they ſhall obey the Order they had from *Spain*, to notify their Arrival;

rival; and at the ſame time, they will take away a Difficulty which we made, to give them, the Precedency, till they were Ambaſſadors. This, Sir, is an Expedient which we highly approv'd of, and the rather, becauſe the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* gave us to underſtand, that 'twas only upon our conſideration, that they choſe it, and that had it not been for us, they would have immediately receiv'd the Viſits; but that amidſt the earneſt Deſire he had to hold Correſpondence with us, he was willing to ſtay till we would vouchſafe to viſit his Collegues, aſſuring us, at the ſame time, that ſo ſoon as the Powers ſhould be arrived, we ſhould have the firſt Notice and the firſt Viſit. We expreſs'd to the Nuncio, the Obligation we were under to him, for the Care he has taken to manage that Affair, and to ſecure all the Advantages which are due to us. We ought to tell you, Sir, That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* declared, that till he receives the Viſits of Ceremony, he will act and be preſent at the Conferences, as Don *Pedro Ronquillo* had hitherto done, which has not been as a Precedent.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *June* 24. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Diſpatch of the 11th inſtant, inform'd me of the firſt Steps which his Holineſs's Extraordinary Nuncio has made with you, by the ſending of his Holineſs's Brief, and the Communication of his Full Power. I think the Exceptions

Exceptions you made againſt both, very reaſonable, as well thoſe which have reſpect to me, as thoſe which concern you. That confounding of my Name, in the Collective Phraſe of other Kings and Princes, can only be imputed to an Overſight, or an Ignorance of the Chancery of *Rome*; for whoſoever looks back into the Regiſters thereof, would find there, that the Emperor, and the Kings my Predeceſſors, are always mention'd therein diſtinctly, when other *European* Kings and Princes were comprehended in general, under one and the ſame Phraſe. This Cuſtom was alſo practis'd in the firſt Aſſemblies of the Council of *Trent*; and if it had not been entirely follow'd in the later ones, it might be ſaid, that it was maintain'd by the Proteſtations of my Ambaſſadors: But without having Recourſe to thoſe remote Examples, they ought to have followed at *Rome* what was practis'd in the Full Powers at *Munſter*, wherein I was named ſeparately after the Emperor, according to the Cuſtom obſerv'd in all Ages; and the King of *Spain*, by an Introduction more novel, named ſeparately after me.

As to the Brief, which was directed to one of you, altho' his Holineſs may excuſe himſelf from writing of it to each of you in particular; 'tis nevertheleſs neceſſary, that you be nam'd all three with the Title of Ambaſſadors, in that which he is to ſend you again; and that the Titles which he ſhall give you therein, may be anſwerable to the Character wherewith I have inveſted you, and from which the Titles *Præſantibus viris* are too remote.

In like manner, I ſee, that the Nuncio eaſily yielded to Arguments ſo juſt. He has alſo imparted this Secret to his Collegue who is with me, and I perceive that neither of them doubt,

but

but they at *Rome* will inceſſantly reform an Errour, which crept in, without queſtion, rather by an Overſight, than a Deſign. In the mean time, I underſtand, with Pleaſure, that you are ſatisfied in the Conduct which he obſerves towards you, and that I am not deceiv'd in the good Opinion which I had of him.

Notwithſtanding the Reſolution which *England* has taken to cauſe her Ambaſſadors to give the Precedency to the Ambaſſadors of *Brandenburg*; that Example ought not to make any Change in the manner after which I have order'd you to carry yourſelves towards them. *England* had reaſon to grant that Satisfaction to the ſaid Elector, in the time of her Troubles, and may think herſelf obliged not to alter it. As for me, who am under no ſuch Conſiderations, and whoſe Conduct has been always uniform towards the Electors, I do not think myſelf oblig'd to make any Innovation therein. Therefore whatſoever Inſtance may be made you, ſay always, that being honour'd with the Title of my Ambaſſadors, you will deal with thoſe Miniſters, as they have done, who have born the ſame Character before you in the Empire, particularly, in the Aſſembly of *Munſter*, and in the Diet of *Frankfort*. For the reſt, I pray God, *&c.*

Written at *Verſailles*, the 24th Day of *June*, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER
From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *June* 24. 1677.

Gentlemen,

SInce the writing of his Majeſty's Letter, I had the honour to give him an account of your particular one, of the 15th inſtant. He commands me to add herein his Anſwer, and to tell you that he imputes the little Converſation, which Monſieur *Beverning* has had with you, ſince his Return, only to the Backwardneſs he undoubtedly found in the Mind of the Prince of *Orange*. It can only be look'd upon as a great Inadvertency, or the particular Intereſt of that Prince, ſince nothing is more contrary to that of the States-General.

The Notice which Sir *William Temple* has given you of the Inſtances of the Duke of *Hanover*, may be ſaid to be exactly oppoſite to the Profeſſion of Sincerity, which that Prince has always affected; and nothing, without doubt, is more different from that Regularity which he pretends to, than to treat about the Spoils of *Sweden*, at the ſame time that he is an Ally of that Crown, and draws Subſidies from his Majeſty. It may be, the Mediators will not think proper to ſpeak as yet of this Affair, but without doubt, the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* will oppoſe it, and claim, with Juſtice, to be back'd therein by you.

If

If the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* has ſo good Diſpoſitions for the Peace, as thoſe which the Nuncio has diſcover'd to you, it will be very neceſſary that he ſhould explain himſelf upon new Conditions, ſince thoſe which have been given hitherto by *Spain*, are not aſſuredly the Means to attain thereto.

The Ambaſſadors of *England* have moſt certainly a great deal of reaſon to claim to be viſited firſt, after the Nuncio, by the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, in regard of their Title of Mediators, which does not bring it to a Precedent; and you know thoſe were the Reaſons for eſtabliſhing that Cuſtom at *Cologn* and *Nimeguen*. 'Tis their Buſineſs to diſpute their Intereſt. If the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* deſign to viſit the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, without Rank, and as of the ſame Houſe of *Auſtria* before them, in that caſe, the Nuncio would have as much Concern, if he only receive the Viſit after that which ſhould be made to the Emperor's Miniſters; but if that Ambaſſador firſt viſits the Nuncio, then the Imperial Ambaſſadors, and afterwards thoſe of *England*, then you would have real Grounds to complain, ſince it would confound the Mediation, for which alone, it has been hitherto yielded.

As to the Expedient which was made uſe of at *Munſter*, that when the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſadors, and thoſe of the Emperor, viſited one another without Rank, as of the ſame Houſe, and before the Pope's Nuncio; what has been practis'd in that Aſſembly, would not be prejudicial in this, ſince his Majeſty's Ambaſſadors would immediately follow the Pope's Nuncio. *Gentlemen*, I cannot give you a more particular *Memorandum*, than thoſe which you have had hitherto; and 'tis an Expedient which ought to be known by Signior *Bevilaqua*. But if when the Biſhop of *Gurk* arrives

at *Nimeguen*, he firſt viſits the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſadors of *England*, as Mediators, and then the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* before you; this would be a Caſe, wherein you cannot receive his Viſit, ſince it would be publickly to prefer *Spain* before you; for to ſay that they viſit without Rank, as of the ſame Family, unleſs the Viſit be in Secret, is to yield up an Advantage to him alſo, in thoſe which ſhall be made with Ceremony, and Attendants, wherein, without doubt, you ought to be viſited firſt.

What you have added at the end of your Letter, ſhews, that the Difficulty with the Ambaſſador of *Spain*, is terminated, ſince he has ſent to you to deſire an Audience. Foraſmuch as he ought not to have Guards, his Majeſty has not deliberated thereupon, what Orders he ſhould give in that Caſe; and as to the Magnificence of his Equipage, ſince yours appear'd, a Year ago, with ſo much Splendour, his Majeſty believes, that without augmenting it, you may permit him the Satisfaction to make a Shew of his, when he arrives. I am, *Gentlemen*, entirely at your Service, *&c.*

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *June* 25. 1677.

SIR,

WE receiv'd the Letter which you did us the Honour to write to us of the 17th inſtant, and obſerve the Hopes you have given us, that

that the King will approve of our Obſervations upon the Brief, which Signior *Bevilaqua* communicated to us; and that he will be ſatisfied with the Fidelity, with which he has yielded to our Arguments; we have Reaſon to believe, That his Majeſty will be yet more ſo, when we have informed you by this, of the Ingenuity, Nicety, and Vigilance, wherewith that Miniſter of his Holineſs hath carried on an Affair, whereof we are, at this time, to give you an Account, touching the Declaration of the Miniſters of *Spain*, the Correſpondence and the Viſits which he deſigns to eſtabliſh between them and us.

Sir, We will not repeat to you, the Propoſals which the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* caus'd to be made to us, by him, for that purpoſe, nor all the Expedients which the ſaid Signior *Bevilaqua* propos'd, in order to join both in that Correſpondence, becauſe we have given you an account thereof; but we ſhall only tell you of what has been matter of Fact.

The Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, *Ronquillo*, and *Chriſtin*, ſent the day before yeſterday, Three Gentlemen to us, to notify their Arrival, with a Compliment concerted together with the Nuncio, which was communicated to us before-hand, and whereto we had agreed. It was alſo made to us in *French*, a thing very unuſual with the *Spaniards*, and contains, that thoſe Gentlemen were here ready to pay us all the Reſpect with which we judged them capacitated, with Sorrow nevertheleſs, that they could not yet receive the Viſits with which we would honour them, by reaſon of ſome Titles they had to amend in their Powers, with which they expected to be very ſoon provided, and that then they would let us know it.

We believ'd, in order to make a ſuitable Return to their Compliments, that it was our Duty to

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ſend to make them one alſo on our part, and we concerted it in like manner with the Nuncio; and foraſmuch as they ſent their Gentlemen of the Horſe to make theirs, we employ'd ours likewiſe to pay our Compliments, wherein we were only to follow, as to their Titles, what they told us in their Compliments, wherein they themſelves made a Diſtinction of their Character. The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* receiv'd our Compliment, and made anſwer that he was very much obliged to us for the Honour we did him; That if he could ſeparate himſelf from his Collegues, in whoſe Power there appear'd ſome Difficulties that he hop'd would be ſpeedily remov'd, he had already diſcharg'd himſelf as he ought, to the Ambaſſadors of ſo great a King as ours.

Our Gentlemen went afterwards to the Houſe of *Don Ronquillo*, to make him a Compliment with the Diſtinction we had preſcrib'd to them, who finding him abſent from home, and being return'd to us, to give an account thereof, we ſent them back thither again, with Orders to tarry for him; but his Secretary ſeeing them diſpos'd to do it, told them that he would undertake to pay him our Compliment, and that he believ'd he would not return home to Dinner. They being come to report this Matter to us, we judg'd that he aim'd to be abſent, in order not to hear, as from us, that he was only Plenipotentiary. Then we ſent our Gentlemen to Monſieur *Chriſtin*, who receiv'd the Compliment very honourably.

Sir, We think it needleſs to tell you, for you will eaſily judge, that all theſe Compliments and Honours were for no other end, but the firſt Viſit which thoſe Gentlemen are to give and return to us, after the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, according to the Promiſes thereof, which the

Nuncio made us on their part, who took their Security for that purpoſe.

Sir, Having given you an Account of Particulars which only regard thoſe Ceremonies, we are oblig'd to inform you of the Affair of the Viſit which the Ambaſſadors of *England* paid to us the Day before yeſterday. They told us, that the Allies contented themſelves with the Acceptance which we made of the Powers of the Envoys of *Lorrain*; and that as to the Proteſtation, foraſmuch as it was not directed to them, but only to the Mediators, they had nothing to anſwer thereto, which makes us, *Sir*, judge that they are not ſo intent upon framing Difficulties, as they have been hitherto; and that the good Condition of the King's Affairs, and the Deſire which they obſerve in the *Hollanders* to make Peace, may take away the Deſign they had formed to put off the Negotiations.

The ſaid Mediators ask'd us, If we had a Power to treat with the Miniſters of the Duke of *Lorrain*; but ſince we told them, that it had been agreed on, that we ſhould have but Five Powers for the principal Parties, and that all the others ſhould be comprehended under the Name of Allies; they did not inſiſt farther upon that Point, nor on the Communication of our Powers, which they deſir'd of us on the part of the Marq. *de los Balbaſes*, which has been defer'd till he has receiv'd his, amended after the Manner agreed on; provided that we may treat, in the mean time, according to the Powers which have been reciprocally exchanged.

The Nuncio came this Morning, to bring us the Copy of the Full Power of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, which we ſend you; and we made him the ſame Anſwer, as to the Mediators of *England*. We have already had the Honour, Sir, to

to inform you, That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* would not cauſe his *Swiſſers*, or his *Heydukes*, to march arm'd about his Coach; but as for the reſt, his Charge is ſuch as we repreſented to you. He has Six *Swiſſers*, and Four *Heydukes*, Twelve Pages, and Twenty four Footmen, beſides thoſe of his Son in Law, and Daughter; his Men have their Liveries already, which are Green, with a Lace, which is a kind of Gold-colour'd Velvet, he has beſides, another Livery far more ſumptuous.

Don *Pedro Ronquillo* will have Liveries trim'd with Gold, and Three Coaches with Six Horſes each. Count *Anthony* will appear alſo with a very ſtately Equipage, as well as the Biſhop of *Gurk*; ſo that, Sir, if his Majeſty approves that we augment our Retinue, and make ſuch Liveries which we think may agree in proportion with thoſe of *Spain*, foraſmuch as we are reſolved to make an Effort with the Aſſiſtance which his Majeſty ſhall vouchſafe to give us, to make that Augmentation, and to maintain it, during the Courſe of our Employ; we preſume to repreſent to you, Sir, that 'tis to be wiſh'd we could immediately receive the King's Orders thereupon, principally to the end that we may have time to get thoſe Liveries made, and a chief Coach finer than ours, before the Seaſon of fair Weather is gone; but much more, becauſe that Don *Pedro Ronquillo* being not to ſhew his Liveries till Six Weeks hence, when he is to have his Power; the Biſhop of *Gurk* and Count *Anthony* ſtaying alſo till then, and the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* not proceeding neither in Ceremony within that term; if we have Orders inſtantly, we ſhall, by that time, have all our Liveries and Coaches ready, and they will attribute this Expence to a Deſign form'd long ſince, not to appear with this Second Livery, till the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and

Spain appear'd with theirs, and until the Assembly was complete; whereas, if we have them not before two or three Months after those Gentlemen have appear'd, it will seem as if it were only in imitation of them, that we augmented our Charge; and that had it not been for their Example, we should have continued as we were; besides, we have no necessity to wait any longer in order to get a better Intelligence of their Expence, since the Attendants of the Marquis *de los Balbases* have already their first Livery, and we have seen the other. We are, Sir, entirely at your Service.

LETTER
From the Ambassadors to Monsieur de Pomponne.
Dated *June* 29. 1677.

SIR,

WE should have had little to have acquainted you with, this Post, if the Nuncio had not come to see us this Morning to talk with us about the Interest of the Prince of *Lorrain*. He absolutely importuned us to obtain a separate Power, in order to treat with that Prince; insomuch that he told us, whereas the King was pleas'd to yield, at the Request of the King of *England*, to grant Five Full Powers; he hop'd his Majesty would not refuse the Pope the Favour which his Holiness desir'd of him, of a separate Power for the Prince of *Lorrain*. Sir, We shall not trouble you with all the Arguments we alledg'd to him on the contrary. 'Tis sufficient,

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if we tell you, we gave him to underſtand, that the King did not grant thoſe Five Powers, till after the Mediators had promis'd him, that they would deſire no more Full Powers; and that all thoſe who were to treat, ſhould come as Allies of one of the Five Principals concern'd; That this was ſo true, that the Ambaſſadors of *England*, who undertook the ſame Demand, did not dare to inſiſt thereupon, after our Anſwer; ſo that this Buſineſs was all over, of which we would not preſume to write to his Majeſty; and notwithſtanding the Inſtance he made to us, he was not able to prevail with us to give him ſome Hopes that we would write about it. Therefore, Sir, we do this only to give you an Account of what has paſs'd. We told him, moreover, that the King would not only take it very ill, that we ſhould aſſume the Freedom to diſcourſe with him about an Affair entirely adjuſted; but that it would alſo give his Majeſty Reaſon to complain for ſo highly abuſing the Condeſcenſion with which he granted Five Full Powers, when it ſhould be made uſe of to demand a Sixth, in breach of the Promiſe which was ſo ſolemnly made us.

The Nuncio ask'd us afterwards, if we would not return ſome Anſwer to the Demands of the Prince of *Lorrain*, upon which we ſaid nothing elſe, unleſs, that hitherto he had given us none on his part. Indeed, the Mediators of *England* have not yet deliver'd to us the Propoſals of that Prince.

Sir, The Sieur *Duker* has intreated us to add this Memorial to that which we did ourſelves the Honour to ſend you the other Day, and Monſieur *Haeren* has deſired us to ſue for a Paſport for one of his Relations, who is at *Venice*, according to the Memorial hereto ſubjoin'd. We

ance, Sir, with a great deal of Sincerity, entirely at your Service, &c.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *July* 1. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; the Diſpatch you wrote to me of the 18th *ult.* was accompanied with the Draught of a Treaty, and the Memorial, which were deliver'd you by the Ambaſſadors of the States-General: The Teſtimonies they gave you in the Conference which you had with them, of the Joy wherewith their Maſters heard of the Diſpoſition I was in, to reſtore my former Amity to them, may indeed be a Mark of the Deſire they have for Peace; but the Inclination which they made appear to you, not to treat of it without their Allies, may occaſion a Doubt, whether they are willing to make a ſeparate one; nevertheleſs, forasmuch as it concerns me to implant in them a Deſire thereof, or to improve their preſent Diſpoſitions towards it, I would have you take an Occaſion for ſo doing, from the Memorial, and the Project which they deliver'd to you; tho' you have already told them, that in concluding a Treaty with them, I would have Regard to the Demand which they made of me, for re-eſtabliſhing the Treaty of 1662. I deſire you would aſſure them again, that my Intention is abſolute, in order to agree upon the ſame Articles, which therein regulate Navigation and Commerce between my Subjects and theirs; as to the Two Articles which are contain'd in their Memorial, the one touching

touching the Augmentation of the Impoſts, the other concerning 50 *Sols per* Ton, notwithſtanding you have already anſwer'd them upon thoſe Points, yet I deſire that you would do it again; and tho' without entring into any Engagement, nevertheleſs in ſuch a manner, as may yield them farther Satisfaction and better Hopes. For this Reaſon, I think it expedient that you ſhould begin to give them Content, by part of what relates to the ſaid 50 *Sols*.

I perceive by their Memorial, that they explain themſelves upon two Things; one the Impoſt upon Silk; the other the Fraud practis'd by the Commiſſioners, who are prepared to receive it: As to the laſt Point, you may aſſure them, that from henceforth I will give Orders for the Prevention thereof; and that for the future, there ſhall be no more of thoſe Oppreſſions, of which they complain, for not being taxed juſtly according to the Bigneſs and Burden of the Veſſels, but by an Arbitrary Eſtimation made thereof by the Commiſſioners. As to the Impoſt, foraſmuch as the ſame was agreed on by the ſaid Treaty of 1662, which they are alſo willing to go by, it appears reaſonable they ſhould obſerve it in that part, ſince they think proper to maintain it in every thing elſe. The ſame Treaty leaves a Liberty on both Sides, to augment the Duties of Importation into, and Exportation out of their Territories; and according to this Freedom, I have acted in mine. But ſince I am very deſirous that you ſhould let the States entertain ſome Hopes, as to a Point which ſo nearly concerns them; I would have you tell their Ambaſſadors, that I will take into conſideration what they repreſented to me, concerning that Article in the Memorial.

You ſee that I do not yet think it convenient to explain my ſelf poſitively, as to what I may grant to them, becauſe, ſince they ſeem ſtill reſolved to continue united to *Spain*, they might reap a Benefit from my Conceſſions, without my being the better for them; but foraſmuch as it is requiſite, nevertheleſs, that, in order to augment the Deſire of Peace in their People, they ſhould be informed of the Advantages which they would find in their Commerce, I deſire you would interſperſe that Anſwer with ſo many Proofs of my Good-Will, that they may be not only aſſured, that they ſhall be no more expoſed, for the future, to the Oppreſſion whereof they complain, but that they may alſo apprehend, tho' without any Engagement on my part, a Moderation of the Duties of Import into my Kingdom. With this View of making *Holland* ſenſible of the Happineſs of Peace, I approve of the Difference you have eſtabliſh'd, in caſe that they would treat for themſelves alone, or for their Allies, and make their Negotiation depend on them. In the firſt, you may continue to repreſent to them the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht*, in the manner as you ought to deliver it up; in the ſecond Caſe, to inſiſt upon an Equivalent which may be given you for it by the *Spaniards*, to whom they are obliged to give up that Place. So that the Benefit which I wiſh may redound from the Conference you have had, and the Anſwer which you are to return, is, that the States and their People may know 'tis in their Power to treat advantageouſly with me, for *Maeſtricht*, and for their Commerce; and that when they perceive they can no longer profit by the War, but that they will reap a great Advantage from a Peace, they may be diſpos'd to abandon the Paſſion of *Spain*, and make a ſeparate Agreement with me.

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I have nothing to add to the Anſwer you made touching the Prince of *Orange*, while he is ſo unreaſonable, as to deſire of me a Recompence for things tranſacted a long time ago, tho' I offer to reſtore him to the Poſſeſſion of his Lands.

Your particular Letter, of the 28th of this Month, contains, for the moſt part, an Account of the manner, in which the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* was preparing to give you his firſt Viſit; and the Difficulty which obſtructed it, becauſe he would not ſeparate himſelf from Don *Renquillo*, and *Chriſtin*, who have not yet the Character of Ambaſſadors; I perceive that this Difficulty has been terminated by the Mediation of the Nuncio, and decided even to your Satisfaction. The Expedient was very well concerted, that they ſhould give you Notice of their Arrival, but defer to receive your Viſits, till they were inveſted with the Title of Ambaſſadors in their Full Powers. It appears, that the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* has the ſame need thereof, as his Collegues, ſince he has only the Title of Pleniporentiary in his Full Power.

The Biſhop of *Straſburg* has declared to me, that he would appear only in the Aſſembly of *Nimeguen*, under the Name of my Ally, and under my Protection; and that the Sieur *Duker*, who is at *Nimeguen*, will take care to inform you of his Intereſts. It is my Deſire, that you would maintain them with all the Affection which I have for that Prince, in every Occaſion that ſhall offer.

I have ſeen and approve of the Deed which you put into the Hands of the Mediators, concerning the Titles which Prince *Charles* has aſſumed in the Full Powers of his Miniſters, and the Proteſtation which you made, that the Title I gave him in my Paſports, conformably to what was

agreed upon by the Mediators, can neither be hurtful nor prejudicial to him. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *Verſailles*, the 1ſt of *July*, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *July* 1. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE Conference which you have had with Monſieur *Beverning*, ſeems to be ſome Overture of a Treaty. 'Tis requiſite that the States ſhould know the favourable Diſpoſitions which the King entertains to conclude it in their Favour; and altho' his Majeſty cannot engage himſelf at preſent, as to the two Points which they moſt deſire, they may nevertheleſs be made ſenſible of the facile Methods he is willing to lay down to re-eſtabliſh their Navigation and Commerce.

The Conduct of Monſieur *Bevilaqua*, in order to find out Expedients which may be agreeable to you, continues to denote the Sentiments of Affection which he has profeſs'd for his Majeſty: That which he propos'd, to defer the Viſits to the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, till they have receiv'd their Full Powers with the Title of Ambaſſadors, cannot be more reaſonable; and the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, by his accepting it with Approbation, makes a plain Diſcovery that he intends to render you the Honour due to you.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, I have nothing to add to what his Majeſty wrote you, as to all the Points of your Diſpatches, even to the 28th of laſt Month. The Prince of *Orange* is not yet gone out of the Country of *Waes*. Prince *Charles* left his Camp the 26th, and made a ſhew of marching on the ſide of *Triers*. The Mareſchal *de Crequi* follows cloſe after him; but you have freſher News of this, than we. I am, *Gentlemen*, with Sincerity, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *July* 2. 1677.

SIR,

HItherto no new Inſtance has been made us, to give the Precedency to the ſecond Ambaſſador of *Brandenburg*. If they preſs us to it (as we do not believe) we ſhall conform to the Cuſtom eſtabliſh'd at *Munſter* and *Frankfort*, according to your Majeſty's Orders.

The *Engliſh* Mediators came yeſterday to bring us Propoſals on the part of Prince *Charles*, and told us, at the ſame time, that neither the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, nor thoſe of *Spain*, were engaged to wave the Demand of a ſeparate Power for that Prince: We aſſerted on the contrary, that Don *Ronquillo* was here, when it was agreed, that it ſhould not be deſired of Your Majeſty to give more than five Full Powers; and at length, the Mediators were of the ſame Opinion with us therein: That Monſieur *Beverning* had indeed ſaid well, that the States could not hinder their Allies from making Inſtances to have ſeparate

Powers for them all; and, that even the Ambaſſadors could no leſs exempt themſelves from deſiring Satisfaction for their Allies; but, that they had given their Promiſe, that ſuch Demands ſhould not retard the Negotiations; and, that when your Majeſty did not grant them, they would have no Grounds to complain thereof; That by virtue of that Promiſe, and alſo, add they, in hopes that your Majeſty would vouchſafe to grant a ſixth Power, they deſired them, the Mediators, to give us the Propoſals of the Prince of *Lorrain*. We judg'd by this Diſcourſe, that the Allies only ſought after an honourable Pretence to get clear of this Affair; and, that they would not at all inſiſt upon this new Demand. For which reaſon, Sire, we made anſwer to the Mediators, that after we had declared to them, that we would not have a ſeparate Power to treat with Prince *Charles*, nor with any other, we were ready to receive his Propoſals as from one of the Allies; and, that we would not write thereof to your Majeſty, becauſe he was included among the Princes, for whom we have Full Powers.

Sire, in purſuance of that Declaration, we have receiv'd the Propoſals of Prince *Charles*; but we were very much ſurpriz'd to ſee, that inſtead of cauſing them to be deliver'd by the Miniſters which he has here, he made them himſelf, and ſign'd the Writing that was put into our Hands, which has been drawn up a long while ago, and which is the very ſame that we ſo often refus'd to receive from Sir *William Temple*. We thought ourſelves obliged to return that Paper to the Mediators, as uſeleſs, ſince it was made in the time when Prince *Charles* had no body here on his part, and is contrary to the Forms, ſeeing he may plead by his Agents; but we have judg'd it more convenient, ſince that Affair is not very preſſing,

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to defer the making Anſwer thereto, till we receive your Majeſty's Orders, when we may ſay all that we ſhould have ſaid now. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect,

SIRE, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 2. 1677.

SIR,

THE *Engliſh* Mediators have tranſlated into *Latin* the Regulations which they preſented to us in the beginning, whereby, they hope to eſtabliſh here, an entire Safety, and keep up the Correſpondence which is ſo neceſſary among all the Ambaſſadors who compoſe this Aſſembly. They have alſo added two new ones, one concerning Duels within the Extent of the Neutrality, and the other touching the Liberty which we are to give the Burgomaſters of apprehending our Domeſticks who ſhould commit Murder, or any other Crime equally puniſhable. Foraſmuch as we have been already inform'd of the King's Intentions, we have acquieſc'd with all thoſe Articles. The other Ambaſſadors, as far as we believe, will do the ſame; ſo that, Sir, thoſe Regulations will be obſerv'd by a common Conſent. The Nuncio who has had Advice of it, and who is very deſirous to make it appear, that on his ſide he labours to keep up the Union of this Aſſembly, and to prevent every thing which may cauſe a Rupture thereof, has tranſlated very

near

near the ſame Articles into *Latin*, and aſk'd us, whether we would not receive them; aſſuring us, at the ſame time, that the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor and *Spain* would not make any Scruple therein. Whereupon we told him, that we accepted thoſe of the *Engliſh* a long time before he was here; but that this ſhould not hinder us from receiving all the Writings which he would give us. This was all that he deſired, what he does, in this Occaſion, being only for form-ſake, and to enable him to ſend Word to *Rome* of the Care he takes for the Tranquillity of this Aſſembly.

He ſtill aſſures us, That the Marquis *de los Balbaſes* will give us the firſt Viſit, after him the Nuncio, the Mediators, and the Emperor's Ambaſſadors; and if the latter inſiſt to be viſited before the Ambaſſadors of *England*, he gave us to underſtand, that then he would make uſe of the Expedient to ſee them without Rank, that is to ſay, before him the Nuncio; in which caſe, we ſhall receive all the Honour that is due to us; and we may ſay, that we ſhall have a Rank more honourable than that of the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, ſince we ſhould be viſited immediately after the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſadors of *England*.

The Nuncio alſo gives us Hopes, that the Biſhop of *Gurk*, whoſe Equipage is arriv'd at *Cologn*, will deal in the ſame manner with regard to us, and follow the Expedient of *Munſter* to viſit the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*, as Miniſters of a Prince of the ſame Family, and before him the Nuncio. He alſo gave us to underſtand, that he hopes, at that time, to find out ſome Expedient to create an Interview between us, and the two other Ambaſſadors of the Emperor; as if he would cauſe them to renew ſome Viſit in Ceremony all three together. Nevertheleſs, he has not explain'd himſelf

himſelf to us, as to that Expedient, whereof we will give his Majeſty an Account when we know it. In the mean time, we declar'd that we could not receive any Viſit, with regard to the Miniſter who had fail'd in the Reſpect he ow'd to the King, as had Monſieur *Straatman*; tho' he thinks himſelf more injur'd, by the Refuſal which we made to ſee him.

Sir, We ſhall not augment our Equipage, ſince his Majeſty does not approve of it. He has at leaſt obſerved, that we were diſpoſed, whatſoever it would have coſt us, to maintain, with State, the Character wherewith he has inveſted us. 'Tis true, that the Charge which we have all been at only for a Year ſince incapacitates us to do it, and to maintain that Argument of our own Ability; But, 'tis alſo true, and we are obliged to tell it you, to the end that his Majeſty may have a perfect Knowledge of what paſſes in an Aſſembly ſo famous as this, that there are ſix or ſeven Ambaſſadors who have all their Liveries trimm'd with Gold and Silver, and, that beſides, the Change we are now making of our Liveries, a little Aſſiſtance would put us in a capacity to have ſplendid ones; and if his Majeſty would grant a Supply ſomewhat larger, we ſhould have a firſt Coach noble enough to eclipſe all thoſe who are to appear in this Place. We are, Sir, with all the Sincerity that can be, entirely devoted to your Service, *&c.*

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *July* 8. 1677.

SIR,

SINCE your laſt, we have had neither Viſit nor Conference, which gives us occaſion to write to the King; and tho' we are aſſured, that they talk very much of a Peace at the *Hague*, ſince the Prince of *Orange* and the States General are entirely undeceiv'd, by the Return of Monſieur *Benthem*, as to the Hopes which they had founded upon the Conjunction of *England*, in a League againſt *France*; nevertheleſs, we cannot write any thing certain as to their Intentions, till it be ſeen what Courſe the Negotiations will take, after the King's Anſwer upon the laſt Conferences which we had with the Ambaſſadors of the United Provinces. There are alſo very many Miniſters among the Allies, who do not think they ought to forward a Treaty very much during this Campagne, wherein, they are perſuaded, that the worſt that can befal them, is to be unable to do us any conſiderable Damage. If God preſerves us therein, as we ought to expect it from the Continuance of his Protection, and the good State of his Majeſty's Armies, we hope, Sir, that he will put an end to the War this Year, by a good and glorious Peace. Monſieur *Beverning* gave us alſo to underſtand, that he will ſtay no longer than the End of the Campagne to conclude what re-

lates

lates to his Maſters, if we can give him Satisfaction as to his laſt Demands.

Sir, The Abbot *Raſſet* has informed you of the Prohibitions of the Ambaſſadors of the States General, to prevent the Arbitrators in this Town from taking off the Judgment they pronounced on the Affair which you recommended to us. We did not think proper, Sir, to urge thoſe Miniſters in their Prohibitions before you had notified to us more particularly your Intentions as to that Difficulty; and perhaps you would think it more expedient that we ſhould defer our Inſtances till the Concluſion of the Peace, which would render Juſtice to the *French* Cauſe more favourable than it is at preſent. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service, *&c.*

LETTER
From the King to the Plenipotentiaries.
Dated *July* 8. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Auaux*, your particular Letter of the 29th of laſt Month contains, for the moſt part, the Account which you give me of the Compliments you have receiv'd from, and returned to the Ambaſſadors of *Spain*. Foraſmuch as they are the Effect of the Expedient propos'd by his Holineſs's Nuncio, I obſerve, with Satisfaction, that they have aſſured to you the firſt Viſit which they are to pay you in your Rank, when they ſhall have receiv'd the Title of Ambaſſadors in their Full Powers.

Your Letter of the 29th informs me alſo of the Inſtances which were made to you by the Pope's Nuncio,

Nuncio, to obtain a Separate Full Power for Prince *Charles*. You recollected yourſelves after the manner you ought, and as I could deſire, not to admit of that Diſtinction for this Prince, as well on Account of the expreſs Promiſe which was made by the Ambaſſadors of *England*, that no Full Power ſhould be demanded beſides the Five which I have granted, as that all the Princes who were to treat, ſhould do it only as Allies of ſome one of the Principals concerned. Notwithſtanding the Inſtances which may be renew'd to you on that Affair, you ſhould ſtand to this firſt Anſwer, and continue to make this thing look as if entirely adjuſted, by the Conſent even of the Miniſters, who are at *Nimeguen*.

Altho' I yielded to the Aſſembly of *Nimeguen* before Prince *William* was ſet at Liberty, I did it, notwithſtanding, at the ſole Intreaty of the King of *England*, and upon the Aſſurance he gave me to endeavour ſtrenuouſly to obtain it of the Emperor. I might have promiſed myſelf, that the Care which he took to cauſe it to be urg'd at *Vienna* would have had its Effect, before the Conferences were begun; and juſtly expected it as a Preliminary which would have been terminated before the Negotiations were commenced: Nevertheleſs, I was not willing to do it, in order to give my Enemies no Pretence to ſtart new Difficulties, at the opening of the Conferences; but now, when the Aſſembly is formed, and almoſt all the Miniſters of the Parties are there, and, that as to the Propoſals which have been reciprocally communicated, the Negotiations are entirely begun; my Intention is, that you ſhould make known the juſt Cauſe I have to expect, that this Affair may be determined at this conjuncture. For that end, I deſire you would make Inſtances to the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſadors of *England*.

You

You may put them in mind, that for the ſole Advancement of Peace, I deſiſted from that ſo juſt a Declaration which I made, not to reſume the Conferences till all things were reſtored by the Liberty of Prince *William*, into the Condition as they were when the Aſſembly was broke up; That I yielded, only at the Offices of the King of *England*, to begin that at *Nimeguen*, upon the Aſſurance which he gave me to uſe his utmoſt for the Liberty of that Prince; That I expect now his Miniſters ſhould be aſſiduous with the Emperor, in order to diſpoſe him thereto. Speak, in the ſame ſenſe, to the Pope's Nuncio; and after you have given him to underſtand how much I was in the right, to claim Satisfaction upon that Point, deſire the ſame Offices of him as his Holineſs has employ'd hitherto, with ſo much Application on that Account at *Vienna*. Apply to the Mediators with all the Earneſtneſs poſſible, in order to incline them to do the ſame on their part; but, nevertheleſs, don't carry your Demands ſo high, as to make the Negotiation of other Affairs depend thereon, if you ſhould not obtain your Ends. I have order'd Monſieur *Courtin* to ſpeak in the ſame Style to the King of *Great Britain*, to the end that he may enjoin his Ambaſſadors to preſs for a Liberty which he has engaged to procure. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux* into his ſacred Protection.

Written at *Verſailles* the 8th of *July*, 1677.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *July* 8. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE only Point which I have to anſwer in particular, in the Letters you were pleas'd to write to me, relates to the Knowledge which you deſire to have of the King's Intentions, touching the Augmentation of your Equipage and your Livery, when the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* diſplay all their Grandeur at *Nimeguen*. His Majeſty is confirm'd in the ſame Opinion, as I ſignified to you before; that forasmuch as you have already appeared with very great Magnificence, he does not think the Augmentation of your Retinue ought to be regulated according to that of thoſe new Ambaſſadors. He has alſo learnt, that it is ſuch as correſponds with Honour to the Dignity and Character of the Employ in which he has fix'd you.

The Kings Armies and thoſe of the Emperor are ſtill in ſight of one another below *Metz*, and the *Moſelle* between both. There always happen ſome Actions with a remarkable Advantage, on the part of his Majeſty's Troops. Thoſe of the Emperor diſperſe themſelves for want of Proviſions, which cauſes Diſtempers and Deſertion; whereas thoſe of his Majeſty have an abundance. The Prince of *Orange* was ſtill, the 15th inſtant, in the Country of *Waes*; and the long ſpace of Time he has ſpent without taking the Field, is a

Proof

Proof of the Loſs he is at which Side to cloſe with, at a Time when his Majeſty's Army is certainly ſtronger than his. I am, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *July* 9. 1677.

SIRE,

THE Diſpatch wherewith your Majeſty was pleas'd to honour us, of the firſt of this Month, gave us an occaſion to confer with the Ambaſſadors of the States General; but far from finding them ſo forward to put an end to the Differences which may retard their private Accommodation with you, as we had reaſon to expect, both from the laſt Declaration which the King of *England* made to the Miniſters of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, who were at *London*, and from the good Condition of your Majeſty's Affairs they ſufficiently declared to us, by the Indifferency with which they receiv'd, not only our Anſwers, ſuch as they ought to be diſcover'd by the Mediators; but alſo all the Mediums which we added thereto, according to your Majeſty's Order; that they were not perſuaded their Conditions can be worſe at the end of the Campagne than now; and, that till all their Hopes are vaniſhed, they will not abandon the Intereſts of their Allies.

This made us ſpeak with more Reſervedneſs, as to the Reſtitution of *Maeſtricht*; and we contented ourſelves with ſhewing them that your Majeſty had very good reaſon to refuſe it, if an Equivalent was not given you by the *Spaniards*, to whom the States General are oblig'd to deliver

up

up that Place. But without diſcovering to them any Deſire to draw them off from their Allies; we nevertheleſs left them to underſtand, that if the Obſtinacy of the latter made them ſeek out Ways to eaſe themſelves, by a private Accommodation, of the Charges of the War; we did not deſpair, but, that by re-entring after this manner into your Majeſty's Favour, you would grant them greater Proofs of your Affection.

'Tis true, Sire, that they anſwer'd us only with a Smile, as to the Buſineſs of *Maeſtricht*, as if the ſame was an Affair which they did not think ought to fall under Debate; and they inſiſted only upon what relates to the Commerce, and the Satisfaction of the Prince of *Orange*. With reſpect to the former, they ask'd us, whether your Majeſty would conſent that a ſeparate Treaty be made thereof, which ſhould be authoriz'd by a ſingle Article in the General Treaty; and they ground this Demand upon the Diſpoſition your Majeſty may have to grant greater Favours to them than to their Allies. In the *ſecond* Place, ſince they do not complain ſo much of the Fraud practiſed by the Commiſſioners appointed to receive the Duty of 50 Sols *per* Ton, as of the Edicts, Declarations, and Decrees of your Majeſty, which authorize them in the Oppreſſions they lay upon the *Dutch* Merchants; that your Majeſty would be pleas'd to give them to underſtand in what manner you will remedy their Complaints for the future, and whether you will conſent that ſome Article may be inſerted in the ſaid Treaty of Commerce, to provide for the Satisfaction of Merchants, and which may be reciprocally executed; declaring, nevertheleſs, to us, that they would not give over the Inſtance they made us, for the Suppreſſion of that Duty. *Thirdly*, that ſince your Majeſty is willing to re-eſtabliſh the

Treaty of 1662. in its firſt State, you would conſequently reduce the Duties laid upon the five ſorts of Merchandizes mention'd in the Memorial, which we ſent you thereof, at leaſt, to the ſame Foot as they were, at the time of the ſigning of that Treaty. In the *fourth* Place, whether your Majeſty conſents to all the other Articles, which they formerly preſented to us, in order to compoſe the Treaty of Commerce, and on which we have hitherto made them no Anſwer; but foraſmuch as you may ſee, if you cauſe them to be laid before you, that as to the 25*th*. 26*th*. and 35*th* Articles, we have made ſome Obſervations concerning the Prejudice that might accrue to your Service thereby, we took upon us only to inform ourſelves more poſitively of your Intentions, the rather, becauſe it will not, perhaps, be of any uſe in the Advancement of the Affairs which your Majeſty has committed to us, to have now and then freſh Occaſions of conferring with the ſaid Ambaſſadors.

As to the Satisfaction of the Prince of *Orange*, we kept exactly to the Terms which your Majeſty makes uſe of in explaining your Intentions to us. The laſt Queſtion which thoſe Ambaſſadors ask'd us, was, Whether of all the Articles which are to enter into the General Treaty, in favour of the States General, whereof we ſent your Majeſty a Copy a Month ſince, there are no others, beſides thoſe which we ſpoke to them of, whereto you make ſome ſcruple to conſent; and we only anſwer'd them, That when thoſe which we diſcours'd of were adjuſted, we hop'd all the reſt would be eaſily ſurmounted.

We afterwards inform'd the *Engliſh* Mediators, the Nuncio, and the Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, of the Subſtance of our Anſwers, without adding any thing thereto, of what may give the States General

Hopes

Hopes of finding greater Satisfaction, in caſe of a Separation from their Allies. We are, with a profound Reſpect,

SIRE, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 9. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may ſee by the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, that our Negotiation with the States is very remote from the Point which we wiſh them at. God grant that that of Monſieur *Courtin* may go on better, and, that the Miniſters of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, who are undeceiv'd by the King of *England*, and even his Chief Miniſters, of the vain Hopes they had grounded upon the ill Deſigns of the Parliament, may ſuffer themſelves to be perſuaded by that Prince, that the beſt Method they can take for the future is to ſubſcribe to the Conditions which his Majeſty is willing to grant them. It ſeems alſo, that the Progreſs of their Arms ought not to confirm them in their Obſtinacy; and, that they ſhould apprehend, leſt the Campagne paſſing away with Diſadvantage to them, it would not, perhaps, be the ſame with us, by the end of the Winter.

Sir, The Ambaſſadors of *England* have a long while continued their Inſtances, in favour of the City of *Hamburgh*, in order to oblige us to deſire Paſports of the King for their Deputies. We would

would fain have excus'd ourſelves from troubling you therewith; but they told us, that foraſmuch as the King had declared War againſt them, they were forced, againſt their Wills, to ſend Deputies to juſtify themſelves to his Majeſty, and do all that lies in their Power to re-enter into his Favour. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 13. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to inform you of this Poſt, but of the Departure of the Marquis *de los Balbaſes*, with his Family, for *Amſterdam*, where he makes Account to be in Ten or Twelve Days. We are, Sir, moſt really at your Service, *&c.*

POSTSCRIPT.

Sir, Since the Writing of our Letter, we heard that the King of *England* has diſpatched an Expreſs to Sir *William Temple*, to give him Orders to ſet out forthwith to come to him in *England*, about important Buſineſs; and, that he ſhould, in a few days, leave that place to return hither again.

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *July* 15. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Diſpatch of the 10th inſtant, and your particular Letter of the 6th, are fill'd chiefly with what the Mediators negotiated with you to obtain a Full Power, in order to treat with Prince *Charles*, and, that Prince's Propoſal which they put into your Hands. I gave you to underſtand, by the laſt Poſt, what was my Intention, as to the firſt of thoſe Points. I alſo perceive that you will not have a very hard Task to oppoſe it, ſince the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* declared, that my Refuſal of a ſixth Power, ſhould not retard the Negotiations of Peace; and, that they have plainly diſcover'd, that they uſe their Intereſts rather in Favour of one of their Allies, than that they expect to obtain any Succeſs therein. In like manner, it appears, that the Miniſters, even of *Lorrain*, quitted that Claim, when they caus'd the Ambaſſadors of *England* to deliver you their Maſter's Pretenſions. Altho' I am willing, that you ſhould admit of thoſe Propoſals, when they ſhall be made in Form, I do not think fit that you ſhould accept that Writing: The Method wherein it is conceiv'd, which ſuppoſes, that the want of a Paſſport renders his Miniſters incapable to repair to *Nimeguen*, for which reaſon he was oblig'd to make the beſt of his Pretenſions, by means of the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor, the Catholick King, and the States General, ſuits ſo little with his preſent Condition, that it would be a kind of Invalidity

validity in that Act, when Time and Things are abſolutely changed. You may tell this to the Mediators, and let them know, that you have Reaſon to expect, that whatſoever the Demands of Prince *Charles* may be, he ſhould explain them by his Miniſters, at this time, when the need he had heretofore of having Recourſe to thoſe of his Allies, does no longer ſubſiſt.

The reſt of your Diſpatch relates to the Regulations which were before agreed on, and that were ſent you again by the Mediators, to prevent the Diſorders which the Meetings of Ambaſſadors, or Quarrels among their Domeſticks, may occaſion. The Article which was added touching Duels, cannot but be very uſeful; but that which gives Authority to the Magiſtrates of *Nimeguen* to apprehend ſuch of the Ambaſſadors Retinue, who commit any Crime, may occaſion ſome Inconveniencies on your parts; becauſe 'tis very probable, that thoſe Magiſtrates would have as much Indulgence for the Domeſticks of the Miniſters, Allies of the States General, as they would, perhaps, Severity for yours. It will be proper for you to explain yourſelves herein, by the Mediators, to the end that the States General may give him ſevere Orders to act without Prejudice, and to keep an equal Balance between the Parties. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *Verſailles* the 15th of *July*, 1677.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *July* 15. 1677.

Gentlemen,

ALL that I can add to his Majeſty's Diſpatch which I ſend you, is to tell you, that I have receiv'd your Letter of the 9th inſtant, of which I am going to give him an Account.

I can only annex hereto the News of a Battle between the King's Army and that of *Spain*, in *Catalonia*, wherein that of his Majeſty, under the D. *de Noailles*, has gain'd a very great Advantage. Foraſmuch as this Advice arriv'd only yeſterday, very late in the Evening, I cannot yet inform you of all the Particulars.

Prince *Charles* is decamp'd, and ſeems to draw near again to the *Saar*. The Mareſ. *de Crequi* keeps ſtill cloſe after him, and both Armies continue to be very near each other; but, that of the Emperor decays very much for want of Proviſions, and is diminiſhed five Thouſand Men ſince this Campagne.

Gentlemen, I give you Thanks for the Care you vouchſafed to take of the Affair of *Nortſtrandt*.

The Injuſtice of the Ambaſſadors of the States appears great in the Prohibition they gave to the Arbitrators, to take off the Sentence which they had pronounced. Perhaps, they will be more reaſonable after the Defence you have been pleas'd to make in this Affair, for which I am very much

oblig'd

oblig'd to you. I am, Gentlemen, with all poſſible Sincerity, entirely at your Service, *&c.*

Gentlemen, You may ſee by the Memorial which I have join'd to this Diſpatch, what are the Pretenſions of the Prince *de l'Iſlebonne*, upon the Account of his Wife, againſt the King of *Spain*, for certain Poſſeſſions of his Lands. He has intreated the King to vouchſafe to grant him his Protection, in the Treaty of Peace, upon this Affair: His Majeſty thinks fit to grant him it, and has commanded me to ſend you the Memorial. You may, if you pleaſe, put him in the Number of thoſe who come after, and in the Concluſion of the Treaties, which are not eſſential Conditions. His Majeſty, nevertheleſs, will be very glad to procure a Satisfaction which is ſo juſtly due for the Prince *de l'Iſlebonne*, whoſe Perſon and Services he affects and eſteems.

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King,

Dated *July* 16. 1677.

SIRE,

WE have put in Execution your Majeſty's Order contain'd in your Diſpatch of the 8th of this Month, touching Prince *William* of *Furſtemberg*, and made Inſtances for his Liberty in the Terms you preſcribed to us, to the Nuncio, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, who is the only *Engliſh* Ambaſſador that remains here. We have repreſented to the ſaid Nuncio, all the Reaſons which comported with his Miniſtry, for the Offices we deſired of him, and to the ſaid Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, all

thoſe which your Majeſty has, to expect that that Affair may be determin'd inſtantly, reminding him, for that purpoſe, that you yielded to this Aſſembly at *Nimeguen*, only upon the Requeſt of the King of *England*, and the Aſſurance which he gave you to uſe his ſtrenuous Endeavours for the Liberty of that Prince; and, that your Majeſty quitted, for the ſole Good of Peace, that ſo juſt a Declaration which you made, not to renew the the Conferences till all things were reſtored by the Enlargement of that Prince, to the Condition they were in, when the Aſſembly was broke up at *Cologn*: That it was only thro' the Offices of his Britannick Majeſty, that you yielded to begin that of *Nimeguen*, which being at this day form'd, and the Propoſals reciprocally communicated, Your Majeſty expected, in this State of Affairs, that the King of *England*'s Miniſters ſhould labour hard with the Emperor, and diſpoſe him to ſet the ſaid Prince *William* at Liberty; and we will continue, Sire, the ſame Inſtances to you and the other Mediators, with all manner of Vigour, without making the Negotiation of other Affairs depend thereon, conformably to your Majeſty's Orders.

The Anſwer which the Nuncio made us, was, That he would diſcourſe thereof, and uſe his Offices with the Emperor's Ambaſſadors; that he would write about it to the Nuncio at Vienna, who was charg'd with the Affair, to ſolicite the Execution of it; and this day, to his Holineſs, to the end that he may repeat his Orders to both; That he deſired us, nevertheleſs, to conſider, that we intreated him to plead for an entire Liberty; That he was indeed quite ready to ſpeak of it in the ſame Terms to the Emperor's Ambaſſadors; but, that, nevertheleſs, the Orders which he had from his Holineſs, when he was

at

at *Vienna*, and which were left at his Departure to the Nuncio who reſides there, were only to demand of, and make Inſtances to the Emperor, that Prince *William* might be deliver'd up as an Eccleſiaſtick, to his Holineſs, as into a third Hand; to whom we replied, That we only follow'd our Orders; and, that we would leave the Execution of his to his Prudence.

As for Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, his Anſwer was, That he would go and diſcourſe with the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and give an Account to the King his Maſter, of the Inſtances which we made him in the Name of your Majeſty, whereof we gave Notice to the Envoy of the Biſhop of *Straſburg*, to the end that he might be inform'd thereof, and know the Kindneſs your Majeſty has for his Maſters, and the lively Inſtances which you make for the Liberty of Prince *William*.

Sire, We hope that no more Inſtances will be made us for other Powers, beſides the Five which your Majeſty has been pleas'd to grant, either for Prince *Charles*; or for any other Princes, if they are made us again, the Orders for a Refuſal, wherein your Majeſty confirms us by your ſaid Diſpatch, will be punctually perform'd. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect,

SIRE, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 16. 1677.

SIR,

YOU may perceive by our Diſpatch to the King, that we have had the Honour to execute his Orders touching Prince *William*. All that we have to tell you, is, That we ſhall entirely conform, in our Liveries, to what you was pleas'd to acquaint us, was the King's Intention.

Monſieur and Madam *Voeller* deſire a Paſport from the King, according to this Memorial. We can aſſure you, Sir, that Monſieur *Voeller* labours with Zeal at *Bruſſels*, for all thoſe which we deſire for our Domeſticks; and, that he merits to have this Favour done him. We are,

SIR, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.

Dated *July* 20. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing, this Poſt, to give you an Account of, but the Anſwer which Sir *Lionel Jenkins* has made us, on the part of Count *Kinsky*,

Kinsky, as to the Affair of Prince *William*, That he was ſent hither only to treat of Peace; That this Affair has no relation thereto, but only to a private Perſon, who is an Offender againſt the Emperor, and the Empire, the Diſcuſſion whereof ought not to be treated of at *Nimeguen*, but *in foro competenti*; to whom, Sir, we reply'd, That the Affair of Prince *William* is not private, but publick, ſince the matter in Queſtion was the Violation of the Law of Nations in an Aſſembly of Peace, in the Perſon of a Miniſter, and of a Prince allied to his Majeſty; That the Liberty of Prince *William* relates to Peace, ſince his Detention broke the Conferences for that end; That if he was Criminal, they ſhould not have left him ſo long in the Condition which he is now in; but that, tho' he was ſuch, it was requiſite firſt to ſet him at Liberty, and to repair the Wrong done to the Publick Faith, after which they will ſee what they have to do. Then we repeated to Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, what ſtill more particularly concerns the King of *England* herein, which is only a Repetition of what we had the honour to write to you the laſt day, and we deſir'd him to continue his Inſtances; whereupon he expects the Orders of the King his Maſter, to whom he wrote thereof.

The Nuncio, who has a ſmall Touch of the Gout, ſent his Auditor to tell us, That he had the ſame Anſwer from Count *Kinky*. He adds, only, that making his Inſtances, he proteſted, that he did not depart from thoſe which his Collegue at *Vienna* had orders to make on the part of his Holineſs.

The Marquis *de los Balbaſes* is return'd from *Amſterdam*, very much diſſatisfied for having diſcover'd in the common People, and the Burghers, Marks of a great Averſion to the *Spaniards*. In-

deed, we are told, from all Parts, that he ſaw every thing in that City with Chagrin; and, that he did not receive the leaſt Honour there. We are, *&c.*

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *July* 22. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; your Diſpatch of the 9th inſtant, ſhew'd me the Indifferency wherewith the Ambaſſadors of the States-General receiv'd the Anſwer you gave to their Propoſals, and the Remedies you laid down for the Frauds whereof they complain, as well in the Receipt of the 50 *Sol's per Ton*, as in the Augmentation of the Duties of Cuſtom for Commodities imported in my Kingdom. Altho' they told you, That they were perſuaded their Condition could not be worſe at the end of the Campagne; my Intention is ſtill, that you would let them know the favourable Sentiments which I entertain, in order to treat with them thereon. I think it convenient, nevertheleſs, at the ſame time, that you ſhould aſſure them, that I will remedy the Frauds practis'd by the Commiſſioners who receive this Duty in my Ports. I would have you engage yourſelves to cauſe the Declarations and Decrees which have been made, as to this Affair, to be revok'd, tho' they were made with Juſtice. It will be ſufficient, to cauſe them to be exactly obſerved, and without entring into that Diſcuſſion, you may aſſure them, that not being able to recal a Tax, which was eſtabliſh'd by the Treaty of 1662, I will cauſe ſuch a ſtrict Obſer-

Obſervation to be made, that they ſhall have no Cauſe given them to complain of any Abuſe in the Collecting of it. You ought to confine yourſelves to the Abatement which they demand in the Duties of Importation, to the end that, as I have already order'd you to tell them, you may give them to underſtand, I cannot deprive myſelf of a Liberty, which is common to all Sovereigns; but that when they ſhould re-enter into Amity with me, I ſhould be very deſirous to make uſe of ſuch Modifications with them, that they may be ſenſible of an Effect thereof advantageous to their Commerce. Foraſmuch as I have not yet taken a final Reſolution what Foot to reduce the Impoſts to, and whether it ſhould be to the ſame, as they were in the Year 1662, or to any other, you ſhould not enter very poſitively with them into the Diſcuſſion of that Article, nor fall to the Five Kinds of Merchandizes they tranſport from their Province, which are contain'd in the Memorial they deliver'd to you thereof; only keep up the Hopes which you have already given them of the Diſpoſitions they will find in me for the Re-eſtabliſhment of a good Correſpondence, and their Traffick. You may tell them alſo, that I am willing, even as they propos'd to you, in caſe we can agree together upon this Article, to make a particular one thereof, of which mention ſhall be made in the General Treaty, in order to have the ſame Force and Vigour therein.

Notwithſtanding the Earneſtneſs the Ambaſſadors of *Holland* have made appear to you, for purſuing the Negotiations which they have begun; I deſire nevertheleſs, that you would continue to repreſent to them, that 'tis in their Power, both to eaſe themſelves of the Weight of a War which oppreſſes them, and to find advantageous Conditions, ſuch as you offer'd them,

every time that they ſhall make uſe of Ways which are open to them, to renew the Amity, and the former Alliances which they always held with *France*. But becauſe the Rumour of a private Treaty negotiating between me and *Holland*, is already very much nois'd abroad, whether from the Deſire which the States-General have thereof, or by the Artifice of my Enemies, to make *England* jealous of it, I ought to inform you of the Precautions which I have concerted neceſſary for you to make uſe of, in this Affair.

Foraſmuch as the Treaty of 1662 contains the Meaſures which I took with the States-General, not only for Marine Affairs, Trade and Navigation, but alſo for a Defenſive Alliance, they have been ſomewhat uneaſie in *England*, for fear leſt if this Treaty be renew'd in all its Points, it would engage me one Day in a War againſt that Crown, even as it obliged me thereto in the Year 1665. In order to prevent the Miſchief that might ariſe from the King of *England*'s entertaining this Suſpicion, I have caus'd Monſieur *Courtin*, my Ambaſſador, to declare to that Prince, and I have communicated the ſame to his Ambaſſador reſiding with me, that the Treaty which you are negotiating with the States only regards Navigation and Commerce; and that nothing would be done therein, without the Conſent and Participation of that Prince. Therefore 'tis requiſite that when you debate this Affair with the Ambaſſadors of the States, you would keep to the Treaty of 1662, as far as relates to Navigation and Commerce; that is to ſay, properly, to the Articles which commence from the 16th, the firſt 15 being all diſengaged from what concerns Marine Affairs, and relating in particular to Meaſures for a Defenſive Alliance. You may obſerve alſo in the 4th, that the Obligation of aſſiſting

aſſiſting one another, extends to the Fiſhery; and 'tis requiſite, ſo much the rather, not to enter into that Subject, becauſe it has divers times occaſion'd a Diſpute between the King of *England* and me.

As to the Prince of *Orange*, my Intention is, that you ſhould keep to the Terms which I preſcrib'd you, and that without entring into the leaſt Diſtinction of Recompences which he claims, you would content yourſelves to repreſent to him, with the Advantage of entring into my Favour, the Reſtitution of his Lands, in the condition they are at preſent. As for what remains, I pray God to take you my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care, and you Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his ſacred Protection.

LETTER

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *July* 22. 1677.

Gentlemen,

THE King's Diſpatch anſwers yours of the 9th inſtant. Your little Letter of the 13th, which I receiv'd ſince, informs his Majeſty of the Departure of Sir *William Temple*, for *England*, after he had already known by Monſieur *Courtin*, the Order which the King his Maſter ſent him for that end. That Miniſter always diſcover'd ſuch ſiniſter Intentions, that if the King was leſs aſſured of the King of *England*, it might be fear'd that the Account which he would give him of the Poſture of the Affairs of Peace would have a bad effect.

Gentlemen, The King has thought fit to grant Paſports to the Deputies which the City of *Hamburgh* makes account to ſend to *Nimeguen*; but if the Propoſal, which was made at *Ratisbon*, that the Empire in a Body, ſhould depute to that Aſſembly, takes Place, there would be no need for the Parts to ſend thither.

The News which we have from the Armies, as well on the ſide of the *Moſelle*, as on that of *Flanders*, do not yet ſhew us what can be the Deſigns of our Enemies. Prince *Charles* is advanced under *Lunenburg*. The Prince of *Orange* has paſt the *Dender* at *Aloſt*, and join'd the Troops of his Allies. In the preſent Condition of the Kings

Kings Arms, both ſhould be extremely puzzled what Enterprize to form.

The Chevalier *de Chateauregnault*, who commands Five of the Kings Ships, fell upon a Fleet of Forty Merchant-Veſſels in the Channel, under Convoy of Four Men of War: After a long Fight, he ſunk Two, and took Four others: He ſuſtain'd very little Loſs, but the Enemy's Men of War ſuffer'd a great deal. I have no need to tell you, *Gentlemen*, to what degree I am, *&c.*

LETTER

From the Ambaſſadors to the King.

Dated *July* 23. 1677.

SIRE,

WE ſhall punctually put in execution, the Orders which we receiv'd by Your Majeſty's Letter of the 15th Inſtant, touching the Writing which the Mediators gave us from Prince *Charles*. We have not yet made any Anſwer to it. We alſo refus'd to receive it about Six Months ago, when Sir *William Temple* would have given it to us. The laſt time that he put it into our Hands here, he did it, as if he gave us Propoſals from Prince *Charles*, made in the uſual Form; but when we perceiv'd what it was, we told him, That we could not receive it; and becauſe he inſiſted that he would not take it again, we reſolv'd to wait Your Majeſty's Orders. We follow at this time our firſt Regulations, and we ſhall diſcover, that, as ready as we are to receive the Propoſals of Prince *Charles*, when made in the ſame manner, as all the Propoſals which have been delivered here, we cannot accept of an inſigni-

inſignificant Writing, as to the time Preſent, ſince he has his Envoys here, and it carries a kind of Error in it, when he ſuppoſes that he cannot ſend his Miniſters hither for want of the Paſports.

Sir, The Auditor has told us, That the Full Power of the Ambaſſadors of *Spain* is arriv'd, therefore we ſhall ſee them very ſoon. The Difficulty which happen'd between the Emperor's Ambaſſadors, and the Mediators of *England*, has been determined by the Expedient that was propoſed. The Ambaſſadors of *Spain* will notifie their Arrival to all the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor firſt, and receive their Viſit without Rank; and a Day before all the others. The next Day the *paniards* will give Notice of their Arrival to the Nuncio, to the Mediators of *England*, and afterwards to us; ſo that it may be ſaid, we ſhall have therein a more honourable Rank than the Ambaſſadors of the Emperor. The Ambaſſadors of *pain* will likewiſe give a Writing to the Nuncio, ſign'd by them, how they receiv'd this firſt Viſit from thoſe of the Emperor before his, as from Miniſters of a Prince of the ſame Blood; and the Nuncio is to give a Duplicate of that Writing under his own hand. The Nuncio will make uſe of the ſame Expedient at the arrival of the Biſhop of *Gurk*, to the end that the ſaid Ambaſſador viſiting the *Spaniards* without Rank, may ſecure ours to us, and in ſuch a manner, that the Nuncio told us, he looks upon this as a thing done.

Sire, The Ambaſſadors of *Sweden* came to ſee us yeſterday, and after having given us Intelligence of the bad News of the conſiderable Loſs which their Fleet has ſuſtain'd by that of *Denmark*, they told us, that they had an Opportunity to give the King their Maſter certain Information of the preſent Poſture of Affairs, and of Your Majeſty's Inten-

Intentions, with relation to *Sweden*: That that Crown was engaged in a very ſore and difficult War, not to ſay impoſſible to maintain, if they receiv'd not conſiderable Succours; That therefore they deſir'd us to inform ourſelves as to thoſe Points. We anſwer'd, That Your Majeſty's Intentions were ſuch that the King of *Sweden* could wiſh for; and that Your Majeſty makes ſuch prodigious Efforts on all Sides, that it was impoſſible that *Sweden* could receive any conſiderable Support from them, if Fate, the Cauſe whereof we cannot divine, ſhould render all ſuch great Efforts unprofitable for them: That notwithſtanding their Misfortunes, and their Loſſes, we can aſſure them, that our ſole Inſtructions hitherto have been, to adhere ſtrenuouſly to the Reeſtabliſhment of the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, without remitting any thing thereof; that they ought to be better perſuaded of it, than any Body, becauſe they know that in the Proſpect we had to draw off the Duke of *Zell* from all the Allies, by yielding him One or Two Places, and by that means to ſecure the reſt of the Duchy of *Bremen* to *Sweden*, together with that part of *Pomerania*, which belongs to them; we were nevertheleſs unwilling to do any thing without their Participation; and tho' we ſaw by that means the certain Re-eſtabliſhment of the Affairs of *Sweden* in *Germany*; however, we made no Step ſince they told us that the King their Maſter would not remit any thing of what was yielded to him by the Treaty of *Weſtphalia*. We were very glad to tell them this by the way, to make them remember in due time and place, that they might have got out of their preſent miſerable Condition, by giving up ſomething in the Calamities which now oppreſs them. Then we added to them, that notwithſtanding, foraſmuch as

we

we had Orders to ſerve them according to their Intereſts, and the Intentions of the King their Maſter, if he would explain himſelf to them upon the Condition of his Affairs, and they would communicate the ſame to us, we would not fail to give an Account thereof to Your Majeſty. We thought ourſelves obliged to add this, upon a Report, then current, which we think, nevertheleſs, entirely falſe, that after the Loſs of the Naval Battle, the King of *Sweden* deſired to ſend Commiſſioners to treat of a Peace with the King of *Denmark*, to whom he agreed to yield *Schonen*, in order to be able to turn all his Forces on the Side of *Germany*. This is all that we could wiſh better in the preſent poſture of Affairs, and which would be alſo advantageous to the King of *Sweden*; for if he once re-enters into his States in the Empire, it will be eaſy for him to retake *Schonen*; and the *Dutch*, who are againſt him now, would not be ſo then, when the main Buſineſs would be, to diminiſh the King of *Denmark*'s Power in the *Baltick* Sea, who would be Maſter thereof, when he has both Sides. We are, with a moſt profound Reſpect, *Sire*, &c.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *July* 23. 1677.

SIR,

WE have nothing to add to the Letter we give ourſelves the Honour to write to the King, but to aſſure you, That we ſhall ſupport the Affair of *Nortſtrandt*, as much as lies in our Power. We have alſo the Memorial which you did us the Honour to ſend us, from the Prince *de l'Iſſebourne*, with your Letter of the 15th inſtant, upon which we ſhall punctually fulfil his Majeſty's Orders. We are, Sir, entirely devoted to your Service.

LETTER

LETTER
From the Ambaſſadors to Monſieur de Pomponne.
Dated *July* 27. 1677.

SIR,

WE were very much ſurprized, to ſee by Monſieur *Courtin*'s Letter, of the 20th inſtant, and the Copy of that of Sir *William Temple*, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, written by both; that altho' all the Propoſals which have been made us by the Ambaſſadors of *Holland*, for the Re-eſtabliſhment of Commerce and Navigation between *France* and the United Provinces, begin from the 13th Article of the Treaty of 1662; and the firſt of their Demands is number'd XIII, and conſequently, our laſt Reply, *viz.* That his Majeſty might agree with the Articles of the Treaty of 1662, which regulate Commerce and Navigation, can never extend to the Firſt Articles of the ſaid Treaty, which may prejudice *England*; but only to thoſe that follow the 12th, ſince the preceding ones were never debated; notwithſtanding the ſaid Mediators, or rather, Sir *William Temple*, according to the Motions of his Antipathy againſt *France*, has given, in thoſe Letters, an Explication quite contrary to our Intentions, and to what clears itſelf by the Demands, Anſwers and Replys. We had this Intelligence yeſterday from Sir *Lionel Jenkins*, who promiſed us to undeceive the King, his Maſter, and his Miniſters; and you may ſee, Sir, what we have wrote about it to Monſieur *Courtin*, by the Copy of our Letter. 'Tis very hard, to ward off

off the ill Offices of Sir *William Temple*; but we ſhall endeavour to give him no juſt Cauſe, to render them to us.

The Nuncio on the one hand, and Sir *Lionel Jenkins* on the other, yeſterday, deſired our Anſwers to the Writing ſign'd by Prince *Charles*, of which the latter, and Sir *William Temple*, gave us a Copy ſome time ago: And foraſmuch as they committed to Writing, the Subſtance of what we told, which is altogether conformable to the King's Orders; we only ſend you, Sir, the Copy of what the ſaid Mediators kept.

For the reſt, Sir, you may very well judge, that while Sir *William Temple* is at *London*, and Monſieur *Beverning* at the *Hague*, the Negotiations will be very ſilent here; and that 'tis only the Hopes or Fears, occaſioned by the Motion of the Armies, that furniſh the Miniſters, who are here aſſembled, with preſent Matter of Diſcourſe. God grant the King proſperous Succeſſes enough to conclude a good Peace; and We are, *&c.*

LETTER

From the King to the Ambaſſadors.

Dated *July* 29. 1677.

COuſin, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*; Your Letters of the 16th and 20th inſtant, give me an Account, principally of the Offices which you have us'd with the Mediators, for the Liberty of Prince *William* of *Furſtemburg*. There is reaſon to believe, that Count *Kinsky*, even as he has explain'd himſelf thereon, has nothing in

his

his Inſtructions touching this Affair, ſince, aſſuredly, he could not be informed thereof, and look upon it as that of a private Perſon. All Chriſtendom knows well enough, that the ſame is but of too publick a Nature, ſince it broke up an Aſſembly, wherein all *Europe* was concerned; and that of *Nimeguen* would not have been formed, without the Aſſurance which the King of *England* gave me, to do his utmoſt for that end. So that you may continue to induce the Mediators to act for the Succeſs of that Negotiation, which was begun at *Vienna*, by the Care of the Miniſter of *England*, and his Holineſs's Nuncio.

I have already given you to underſtand, the Confuſion occaſion'd at *London*, by the Advice that came thither from *Nimeguen*, that you are treating there for the entire Renewing of the Treaty of Commerce, in 1662, with the States-General. I wrote to you very amply upon that Subject, laſt Poſt. I am alſo inclined to believe, that when this Treaty was in diſpute, you confin'd yourſelves only to the Articles, which relate to Navigation and Commerce. Foraſmuch as the King of *England* has made me write again about it, by his Ambaſſador; and tho' my Intention is to concert Meaſures with the States-General, touching Commerce, yet not to make uſe of any for a Defenſive Treaty, nor any Guaranty, particularly for the Fiſhery; I have thought proper to remove all thoſe Scruples which he might entertain thereof, by a Writing, which I caus'd to be deliver'd to his Ambaſſador. I ſend you a Copy thereof, to the end that you may be informed not only of my Sentiments, as to that Point, but alſo of the new Engagement which I have enter'd into with the King of *England.*

land. I have no need to add to what I wrote to you Eight Days ago, that in caſe you reſume this Affair with the Ambaſſadors of the States-General, you ſhould confine yourſelves to the Articles of Navigation and Commerce, and in no wiſe enter upon thoſe which relate to Guaranties and mutual Aids. For the reſt, I pray God to take you, my Couſin, into his Holy and Worthy Care; and you, Meſſieurs *Colbert* and Count *d'Avaux*, into his Sacred Protection.

Written at *Verſailles*, the 29th of *July* 1676.

LETTER

From Monſieur de Pomponne *to the Ambaſſadors.*

Dated *July* 29. 1677.

Gentlemen,

I Juſt now receiv'd your Diſpatch of the 23d inſtant; but foraſmuch as I have not yet had the Honour to give an Account thereof to the King; I refer till next Poſt, to inform you of his Majeſty's Sentiments, as to what it contains.

I ſend you the Paſport you deſir'd in favour of the Sieur *Voeller*, and you will find it conformable to the Memorial which was annexed to your Diſpatch.

The Enemy's Army in *Flanders*, is advanced between *Ninove*, and *Grammont*. Altho' it is in ſome Meaſure come near *Audenarde* and *Aeth*, yet Reaſon will not permit them to attempt any thing againſt either of thoſe Places, both being extremely

extremely ſtrong of themſelves, and in a condition to be eaſily reliev'd by Monſieur *de Luxemburg*, who is encamped near the latter, on the ſide of *Germany*. The Army commanded by the Mareſchal *de Crequi*, and that of the Emperor, under Prince *Charles*, are ſtill very near each other in *Luxemburg*, and not far off of *Metz*. You know, *Gentlemen*, with how much Sincerity, I am, *&c.*

End of the Third VOLUME.